Drink and enjoy
Lipton's Tea
If you want the best Tea, go to the firm that grows it.
The Largest Tea Distributors, Manufacturers, and Retailers of Food Products in the World.
LIPTON LTD.,
CITY RD., LONDON, E.C.1.
Branches and Agencies throughout the United Kingdom.

HAD YOUR XMAS GIFT! See Page 20.

JOHN BULL

VOL. XXVI. No. 702. | SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1919. | TWOPENCE.

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

EVERY HOUSEHOLDER should see announcement of the EAGLE STAR & BRITISH DOMINIONS INSURANCE CO., LTD. on page ii of cover.

Resting, but Watchful

Edited by HORATIO BOTTOMLEY

THE RETURN OF A TRAITOR

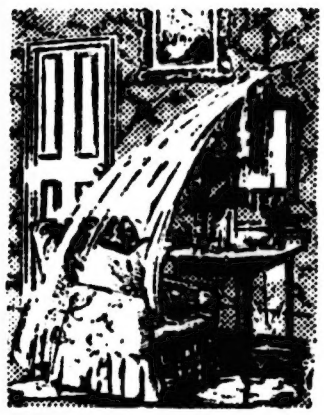
Cavander's
"ARMY CLUB"
Champions.

COO-EE for Capt. Ross-Smith, the first Conquerer of the ALL-AIR ROUTE to AUSTRALIA. COO-EE! too, for his mates—Lieut. Keith Smith and Sergts. W. H. Shiers and J. M. Bennett. All of them are in the First Flight of Champions. . . . so are

"CAVANDER'S
ARMY CLUB"
CIGARETTES.
20 for 1/1
Of all Tobacconists

CAVANDERS LIMITED, London and Glasgow.

FROSTS



BURST WATER PIPES occasioned by frost may cause extensive and serious damage to your furniture, carpets, curtains, pictures, etc.

STORM, FLOOD AND TEMPEST may effect considerable damage to the contents of your home. So may gas, or domestic boiler explosions—other common risks.

The above are only a few of the many and varied risks covered by the "All-In" Policy which for an inclusive premium of 5/- per £100 per annum (minimum premium 7/6) covers practically every serious risk to which the Householder is liable.

Send p.c. for particulars of the many and varied risks covered.

"ALL-IN" POLICY

DEPARTMENT

Head Office: Royal Exchange Ave. London, E.C.3.

EAGLE STAR & BRITISH DOMINIONS INSURANCE COMPANY LTD

Branches and Agents throughout U.K.

41, THREADNEEDLE STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

ASSETS EXCEED £17,000,000

X3X Temper 'Radio' Blades

These world-famous blades are the outcome of many years of scientific experiment. They grind to a wonderfully keen cutting edge and retain it after repeated shaves. Radio Blades will fit almost any make of razor. Get some at your dealer's to-day and make your shaving a pleasure.

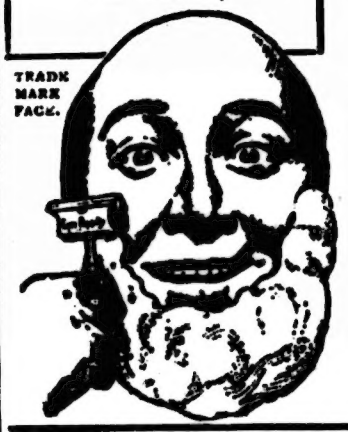
Sold everywhere at

6 for 1/6

or

12 for 3/-

TRADE MARK PACK.



Make your morning shave a pleasure

THERE'S no need to regard shaving as a necessary evil. The man who uses an 'Ever-Ready' Safety Razor looks forward to the morning shave with pleasure. He *knows* he will get punctually to his work with a clean, smooth face. The

'Ever-Ready' Safety Razor

is good for a life-time of service. The sturdy little frame is guaranteed for ten years. The 'Ever-Ready' outfit complete in substantial case with seven 'Radio' Blades costs only

5/-

and is sold everwhere. Beware of and refuse inferior imitations.

'EVER-READY' SAFETY RAZOR Co. LTD., 130, Great Portland Street, LONDON, W 1.

Use These Guiding Lights!

What a boon it would be at night if every house had a luminous number. Here is the very thing. Be the first in your road to have a number that glows brightly in the dark, formed with Ingersol-lite Locaters. It will save the time, trouble and temper of your friends, strangers, postmen, etc. Locaters and Pendants are also handy indoors for attaching to electric switches, gas taps, paraffin lamps, match boxes, furniture obstructions, and anything else you wish to find or avoid in the dark. Real radium makes the luminous substance last for years.

Ingersol lite

LOCATER AND PENDANT

Locater, in two kinds—adhesive back and thumb tack. Pendant with cord for tying on. 1/6 each, of all dealers in Ingersoll Watches, or post free direct on receipt of price.

INGERSOLL WATCH CO., LTD. (Dept. L353) 170, Regent Street, London, W.1.

ASTOUNDING RAINCOAT BARGAINS

Beautifully tailored and finished garments for only

29/6

DIRECT FROM THE MANUFACTURERS.

Get your coat NOW before our present stocks run out. This offer cannot be repeated. You cannot get a better Raincoat from any retailer if you pay double the price.

Made in Gaberdine Cloth, in various shades, fully check lined with belts and buckles. Orders dealt in strict rotation. Approval willingly. Thousands of testimonials.

Ladies', Maids', and Youths' also stocked.

Write To-day for Free Patterns and Booklet.

SARTOR MANUFACTURING CO. (DEPT. J), 53, OXFORD ROAD, MANCHESTER.

A Splendid Investment

Can be secured at small cost.

It is possible to

BUY YOUR HOUSE

by the Splendid schemes with or without Life Assurance benefits offered

THROUGH

THE CITY LIFE

And utilise the rent for the repayments.

Particulars Free—

Apply D.B. J.B., 6, Paul Street, Finsbury, E.C. 2.

Be Y'S When you RY'S And drink FRY'S

Fry's PURE BREAKFAST Cocoa

CHALLENGE. The most favourable offer ever offered. An all British Safety Razor, curve top

pattern with one blade in gilt metal, velvet-lined case. Will take Gillette blades.

3/6 Post Paid

From The Challenge Trading Co., 20, Lancefield Street, Kilburn Lane, W.10.

YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION—

GET FIT!

What better resolution could you possibly make than to resolve firmly, to throw off your present condition of ill health, to become so thoroughly healthy and well that you will succeed in life and find new pleasure in honest work?

I believe that through my simple home course you can quickly regain perfect health.

I am especially successful with WEAK NERVES, stomach or heart weakness.

If you suffer from sleeplessness, depression, lack of concentration, brain fag, exhaustion, or any kind of nerve trouble whatever, you are cordially invited to lay your case before me for diagnosis. Send 2 stamps, mentioning "JOHN BULL," and ask for my book, "YOUR GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY." I will make same with sympathetic letter of advice by return.

THOMAS HIGH, Health Specialist, Dept. B, 74, Gloucester Road, Putney, London, S.W.15

For Sundays: Morning, the NATIONAL NEWS; evening, the SUNDAY EVENING TELEGRAM.

JOHN BULL

"Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war."
Milton.

The Paper on which the Sun Never Sets.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

"For forms of government let fools contest:
Whate'er is best administered is best."—*Pope.*

Vol. XXVI. No. 708. **Week ending Saturday, December 27th, 1919.** **Twopence.**

"THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL."

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

Ireland.

We shall have gone to press before Mr. Lloyd George makes his statement in reference to the Government's Irish policy, but we shall ourselves deal once more with the whole subject in our next issue. And, after all, Ireland doesn't blend with Christmas. Would that it did!

North Sea Mines.

We have good authority for the statement that, although our "moored" minefields have been thoroughly swept, those in the Bight of Heligoland—which, by the way, were to have been cleared by the Germans—are still a source of grave danger. Can't the remaining German prisoners take this work in hand?

The Kaiser's Trial.

Of course, this is *not* going to take place in London, but, assuming it does, we suggest that he should be brought there by water and, pending the proceedings, be interned in the Tower of course, entering by the Traitor's Gate.

An Unfounded Rumour.

Apropos of the appointment of Mr. Duncan as Food Controller, we are in a position to state that there is no foundation whatever for the rumour that Mr. Sam Isaacs, the well-known fish authority, is being appointed to the post in the Air Ministry recently vacated by General Seely.

The Spanish *John Bull*.

Would you be surprised to hear that there is a weekly journal published in Spanish, in Buenos Aires, bearing the title *John Bull*? How many *John Bulls* there now are in various parts of the world goodness only knows! But our advice to all is to deal with "the old firm."

"A Society Twister."

Our attention has been called to the proceedings at a recent meeting of the Falmouth Trades and Labour Council, and we observe that, according to a Mr. Kelynack, we are "a Society twister and no good to Trade Unions." But surely one of the primary objects of Trade Unionism is to twist Society into a knot.

An Echo of the Past.

We were rather startled the other day to read on the cover of a cinema paper that it was printed by the Hansard Printing Company, said to be of 53, Chancery Lane. We at once caused enquiries to be made, but were unable to ascertain the identity of the bold spirits who have revived a name which we thought had been buried for nearly thirty years.

Christmas Present for Tommy.

We suppose it is too much to suggest that the Government should double the ex fighting man's Out-of-Work donation for Christmas week. Can't afford it? Rot!

Lost Bank Notes.

We think one of our next Bills must be to compel the Bank of England periodically to hand over to the Treasury gold to the face value of bank notes which have been in circulation more than, say, thirty years. Should any of them turn up afterwards, the amount could easily be adjusted in subsequent returns. How many notes, for instance, were lost through submarine disasters?

FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

No youngster home from school should miss the opportunity of inspecting the German super-submarine "Deutschland," which though closed to the public on Christmas Day will be open on Boxing Day, the Saturday Bank Holiday, and New Year's Day, as well as on every ordinary week-day and Sunday. A covered launch leaves Charing Cross Pier every half-hour, visitors being throughout fully protected against inclement weather. All proceeds of the Exhibition go to that excellent charity, King George's Fund for Sailors.

A great variety of souvenirs is available for Christmas and New Year presents, ranging in price from 6d. to £5. A catalogue can be obtained on application to the Secretary, Victory Club, 36, King Street, St. James's, London, S.W. 1.

Name, Please?

Who was the Labour Leader who advised the German representatives to sign the Peace Treaty upon the assurance that the Labour Party in this country would later on secure important amendments to it? Will Mr. Henderson oblige us with an answer?

We *Don't* Think!

This is the latest policy of the United States, voiced by a gentleman who was the Chairman of a Committee appointed by President Wilson to investigate pogroms in Poland. Not only are we to give America a mandate for Constantinople, Armenia, and Anatolia, but we are to "welcome her in the Mediterranean and the Near East as a full partner with all rights and privileges and responsibilities" and the proof of our sincerity is to be "the giving of equal control of the Straits of Gibraltar." We do not know whether this is the fifteenth or the sixteenth of the President's "Points."

"To the Manner Born."

We are glad to learn from the *Times* that, although we inherit "the Asquithian tradition for sonorous oratory," we have "the Parliamentary manner." No doubt the rest will follow in time.

Masculine Women.

We observe that a meeting of Temperance Women at Prestatyn has protested against the "Comrades" having any drinking facilities at their local club. These women are almost as bad as the men who are denying workhouse inmates a little Christmas cheer.

Financial Nostrums.

In a speech condemning Premium Bonds, Mr. Herbert Samuel, an ex-financial Minister, tells us that a further tax upon War Profits is the true prescription, and that it will yield at least £1,500,000,000. We may later remind the right honourable gentleman of this prophecy.

"If You See It—"

This is our famous slogan honoured in this year's Westminster Play:

"Tu præmia, Horatio, laudas:
Est ita, nam spicipaid scribes, Horatio,
ita est."

Excellent Latin, no doubt—and excellent sense, most certainly.

Is this the Cause?

Will the Home Secretary inquire whether the failure to bring to justice the gangs engaged in London robberies is in large measure due to the parsimony with which the detective force is treated in regard to "secret service" expenses? Seven-and-sixpence does not go far these days!

How Wicked!

By means of the sale of 5s. tickets in the "Golden Ballot," Preston Hall, near Maidenhead, has already been opened as a Tuberculosis Home and Settlement, and over a hundred disabled men are now installed there. The wicked woman who has done this terrible thing is Mrs. C. F. Level, of 8, Marble Arch, London.

A Tall Order.

In the course of an action brought by the owners of a sludge boat for damage caused by collision with the *Deutschland* on December 2nd, Counsel suggested to one of the witnesses that he had said to the mate "Let's go and look at old Bottomley's bargain." But, unfortunately for the suggestion, the collision occurred on December 2nd, *1918*! Who was the instructing solicitor?

Local Limerick.

(William Herbert Jenner, of Richmond Road, Shepherd's Bush, has been fined £120 for profiteering in butter and sausages.)

There once was a grocer named Billy,
Who profiteered sausage until he
Heavy mulct had to pay
To a Cadi one day,
Who in fact should have ordered him skilly.

Salute!

A Corporal of the Coldstreams thinks that if an appeal were made to everyone to salute the Whitehall Cenotaph as they pass, it would be more effective than the Army Order suggested to us by another soldier. It is certainly our opinion that everybody, soldiers and civilians alike, should salute the Cenotaph as they go their ways. It is the least we can do to show reverence to our immortal dead.

Actors and Christmas.

Writing solely in the best interests of the theatrical profession, we regret to hear that a theatre at Blackpool announces a matinée and evening performance on Christmas Day. In the first place, this is hard on all stage employees on tour, for every Sunday is spent in travelling, and Christmas Day should be a day of rest, on broader grounds. "Two shows on Christmas Day" is not pretty reading.

Cat and Mous

It is to be hoped that it will not become the practice in criminal cases for the Crown, as the prosecuting authority, to appeal against clemency exercised by the Court of Criminal Appeal. The horrible crime committed by Arthur Beard, the Hyde murderer, admits of no condonation; but for a man to be sentenced to death, and for the death penalty to be commuted to 20 years' penal servitude, and afterwards for the Crown to appeal for a reinstatement of the capital sentence, savours too much of mental torture to be in harmony with civilised usage. Whatever happens, Beard cannot now be hanged.

Frozen Out.

In spite of the wishes of the parishioners, with which he was perfectly familiar, the Bishop of the diocese has frozen out the popular *locum tenens* of St. Michael's, Lower Sydenham the Rev. Percy Lance, and appointed an entire stranger. Of course, a Bishop needn't, and this Bishop evidently doesn't, care a pin for the opinions or wishes of the congregation. By all accounts, Mr. Lance was pulling the parish round by perfecting an organisation in which a larger and larger number of people were beginning to take a hand for the welfare of the church. Now everything has to be begun again by an entire stranger, who may not make himself *persona grata* at all.

Wreaths for Victims.

The impudence of the unrepentant Hun is almost sublime. That of Albert Möller Nachfolger, of Braunschweig, exceeds the limit. He is at present sending through the post touting circulars, printed in German, soliciting orders for wreaths in gold, silver or aluminium, designed to perpetuate the memory of our fallen heroes. Can this pachydermatous German moneygrabber dream for one moment that an English mother who lost a son, or an English wife who lost her husband, in the war would insult the dead by purchasing a memorial wreath made by the murderous hands by which their loved ones fell? Only the Teuton mind could imagine such a possibility.

Young Soldiers and the C.S.

Is there any wire-pulling going on in the matter of those appointments to the Civil Service of young soldiers? In one case a twice-wounded lad, only 20, passed the necessary examination with highest marks and honours. That was eight months ago, and he is still without a post, although berths have been found for other candidates who passed far below him at the exam. He has not a soul to back him up, you see.

Painful Slaughter.

Although Charles Hunt, butcher's manager for the Alcester Co-operative Society, was acquitted by the Stratford-on-Avon Bench of having "caused unnecessary suffering to a bullock by killing it in an improper manner," it will not do for him to pose as a person of humane feelings. Here is his own account of the affair. "They got the beast into the yard, and when he took his first shot he was straight in front of the bullock, and shot at its forehead. As quickly as he could he got in another shot. He also had a third shot. . . . The fourth shot he made behind the ear." The shots "practically killed" the animal, which was finally pole-axed. If this is up-to-date slaughtering, we prefer the old-fashioned kind.

☛ NEXT WEEK
£500
MUST BE WON
FOR NAMING TEN WINNING TEAMS
in the 1st Round for the Football Association Cup.
This offer is for ONE WEEK ONLY.

Butter.

Is there any ground for the suspicion in the minds of not a few people that margarine magnates are employing every means in their power to prevent the importation of butter?

Do Cinemas Profiteer?

Complaint from S.E. London: "I have already visited several picture theatres, and, asking for a 1s. 3d. seat have been told 2s. 4d. and 3s. 6d., etc. On paying 2s. 4d. I was shown precisely into the same row of seats that previously I had paid 1s. 3d. for. Have any of your other readers experienced this?" One at a time and not altogether, please.

Dunn's Doings.

Dunns, the sad hatters, announce that their new premises in Bradford "will be opening shortly." To judge by the picture, the new shops are quite a gaudy and palatial affair, and Dunn, all of whose sons were exempted as Conchies, has evidently found staying-at-home to be a paying plan for self and family, even being able to afford to send his advertisements out in registered envelopes. However, our Bradford readers are quite aware of the Dunn record.

Conscientious.

Of her husband Robert Roberts, a Socialist agitator on the stump at Jarrow, Mrs. Roberts has been complaining in the local Police Court that, though a joiner by trade, he is of lazy habits, that he often stays in bed till after dinner, and that she has had to maintain herself and the children for six years. Roberts, in his defence, said he was engaged in propaganda work "for the emancipation of the working classes to which he belongs." He will have to work a little now, for he has been ordered to pay his wife 35s. a week. But perhaps he can earn that much by the sweat of his jaw!

Chin Chin Chow.

A man who signs his name and professes to know, alleges that in certain West-end restaurants and hotels, which he names, the cheap labour of Chinese coolies is employed in the kitchen. He says these Chinamen all live Poplar way. "No one sees them: in early morning, out late at night." A little more light on this subject would be interesting. Ox tail in the soup is well enough, but pig tail in the gravy is by no means so palatable.

A Hasty Conviction.

The little village of Fulbeck, in Lincolnshire, is alive with sympathy for a respectable lad, named Fred Timms, who has been fined £10 by the Sleaford Magistrates for "receiving" a stolen magneto. On a perusal of the evidence it is clear that the Bench paid too little attention to the fact that, as soon as ever he heard of the charge of larceny, Timms went out of his way to communicate with the police and hand over the stolen property—a course of conduct raising a strong presumption of innocence.

Beer for Cheer.

Inmates of Dursley Workhouse have been in luck's way this Christmas. The Guardians stopped their beer in 1910, since when they have drunk no other. This year, as usual, the pumpuritans opposed the offer of a cask of ale by Mr. H. Curtis, a member of the Board, but on a division the opponents were only two, so the inmates get the beer for their Christmas cheer. We hope they will respect this touching display of official confidence by not making beasts of themselves.

Funny.

On the other hand, Bethnal Green is one of the places where the inmates weren't in luck. It must have been the speech of a Guardian named Webster which settled their fate at the Board meeting during the momentous discussion on Christmas beer. "Beer," exclaimed this preposterous Pussyfoot, "is a fiery alcoholic liquor, calculated to inflame the passions of old people." Truth is, there isn't enough alcohol in present-day beer to inflame the passions of a blow-fly.

Beast and Burden.

Quite characteristic of the attitude of the unpaid magistracy towards persons charged before them with such offences is the decision of the Richmond bench in the case of two men named Woodhead and Wells, for working a horse while in an unfit state. Though there were six previous convictions against Wells and two against Woodhead for cruelty to animals, the men were merely ordered to pay fines. Punishment of this kind is fatuous and futile. Wells and Woodhead ought obviously to be doing time, and doing it hard.

"Applause in Court."

Reading a local newspaper account of another case—at West Penwith Sessions—you might think the reporter had missed out the weight of evidence. A donkey was found helplessly lying in six inches of water in a ditch. It was in great pain as a result of severe exposure. On its body were large, ragged, bleeding wounds, "which bore marks of having been pecked at by birds' bills." It was in such a deplorable condition that Penberthy, the owner, shot it—after, said the Inspector of the R.S.P.C.A., "admitting he knew birds had been pecking the wounds." At the hearing he denied cruelty; and "on the weight of evidence" the Bench decided to dismiss the case—whereat there was applause in Court!

Local Limerick.

(*Archbishop Walsh, of Dublin, has sent with his blessing a cheque to New York to assist the organisation of the Sinn Fein "Republic."*).

There once was an Irish Archbishop,
Who always sought trouble to fish up;
But, alas! all in vain—
He subscribed to Sinn Fein,
For they'll never get Ireland to dish-up.

An Imposition.

A couple of workmen, hurriedly boarding a train at Paisley, without tickets, tendered the correct sum, 9d., at Glasgow, but were made to pay 1s. 7½d., the rule being to charge full fare from the starting point, Greenock. It is a queer rule and an unfair ruling. Just fancy jumping into a train at Willesden, and being charged at Euston the full fare from its starting point—Liverpool!

Country Stores.

While the affairs of big-shop assistants look like being improved, attention should also be given to the small provincial shops. At Fleet, Hants, several girls work long hours in a two-doored shop, and there is only one small stove—near the boss's office. In the millinery workroom, which has a stone floor, there is no stove at all. Naturally, the girls' hands are in an awful state of chilblains, while customers come in and shiver.

Caretaking.

An ex-soldier with four children is anxious to know what we think of the caretaker's job advertised in connection with Princes Street Congregational Church at Devonport, the salary being £40 a year, with "no living accommodation in connection with the church." It would be all right if he could run it as the side-line of a light and lucrative appointment in the neighbourhood, or even if the missus could handle it after she had put the children to bed—otherwise Princes Street Church does not strike us as one worth taking care of.

"Over the Pit."

Our paragraph under the above heading seems to have been some miles wrong, for Risca, where the cottages over collieries are cracking and tottering, is said to be, not in Glam., but in Mon. However, our informant admits that the rest of the paragraph is correct. But he avers that at Crosskeys, two miles distant, matters are worse, and worse again at Wattsville, another mile on. Houses are propped with iron posts, have cracks a foot wide, and "you can see the roof from the ground floor, looking through the bedrooms." The colliery owners do nothing, except continue digging under other people's foundations.

Baconian.

That new Irish bacon pool, in regard to which one of our readers had a grouse a week or two ago, has come off—thanks to the Food Ministry. In future, all Irish bacon must be distributed through wholesalers in Glasgow, Bristol, Manchester and London. "The effect of this will be," says a curer's agent in Wales, "that those retail provision merchants who bought through me must now register with some lucky wholesaler in Manchester, and pay him a profit of about 10s. a cwt., while when I handled the bacon it was sold at curer's prices, and my commission came out of the curer." The public are supposed to receive the benefit in more equalised distribution. Whether they do or not is another story.

A Farce in One Scene.

When a Labour Exchange posts up a notice asking for ex-soldiers as Government Clerks, that breeds hope. It fades away when the caller finds girls as Government Clerks in the Exchange itself. We have quoted former instances of this anomaly. The latest sinner is the Leyton office.

Psychasthenia!

We have every sympathy with the brilliant young Cambridge undergraduate, Ivan Howard Cook, who has been found by the doctors to be suffering from "psychasthenia." The young gentleman spoken of had purloined three bicycles with no more consciousness of wrong doing than if he had been taking up the collection in church. Fortunately, the Cambridge Magistrates understood the medical aspects of the case, and agreed to bind the defendant over in two sureties of £25. It is one of the consolations of poverty that these obscure mental diseases are seldom found except among the well-to-do.

A Legal Quibble.

Having insured their goods against the risk of theft by "forcible and violent entry," a West-End firm of tailors were the plaintiffs in a recent action against the Sun Insurance Office. And pray what do you think was the defence pleaded by the Company? Actually that, although to execute their nefarious designs the thieves had broken open the store-room doors, they had in the first place sneaked into the cellar during the daytime, their original "entry" having not therefore been "forcible and violent." On this ground the Company resisted payment, and, "on a strict construction of the words," the Court held that their attitude was correct, although Mr. Justice Bailhache was "rather surprised." Morally we consider that the "Sun" was "totally eclipsed."

AN XMAS GIFT FOR YOU!

See page 18.

Clerical.

In the Chelmsford diocese is a curate who has to maintain himself, his wife, and three children on £200 a year. He has recently sold his piano to meet pressing claims, and contemplates selling his books. There are nearly 70,000 Church communicants in this diocese. They were asked for 2s. 4½d per head for the past year; they stumped up 1s. 7½d. about ½d. a week, to be more elucidatory. We have heard the story of the widow's mite. Chelmsford diocese must be full of widows.

Quick Clocking.

It is reported to us that employees arriving at the works of a South London firm, even a tick after 8 a.m. or 1 p.m., are stopped a quarter of an hour's pay. According to our informant, "it does not matter if one arrives on the stroke of 8 a.m., when all the clocks, hooters, etc., in the neighbourhood are proclaiming the hour; a quarter hour's pay is stopped just the same." Also, perhaps, it doesn't matter what work is on at closing time; everybody drops his tools and leaves promptly by the firm's clock. Even a horny-handed son of toil can't expect to have all the time his own way every time.

Chink for Chinks.

We trust the following does not indicate the comparative value of British and Chinese seamen. A steamer in America was manned by a Chinese crew. Arrived in England, for some reason fresh Articles were required to be signed, when it was found that the Chinese bo'sun, carpenter, steward and No. 1 fireman were on the original Articles at £19 per month, while the third officer's pay was £17—and this despite the fact that he held a first mate's "ticket"!

Fobbed Off for Women.

Late a Captain in the R.A.M.C., a specialist in sanitary matters sends us correspondence showing how all his applications for employment by the Ministry of Health have been "turned down by the very Department which so glibly promised appointments to candidates considered qualified to hold them," while women are receiving good positions on every hand. There are, no doubt, appointments under the Ministry of Health for which women are specially suitable, but it is scarcely playing the game to prefer females where ex-Service men can do the work as well or better.

Costly Prosecution.

Why Joseph Simon Sugarman, pleading guilty at the London Sessions to the unlawful appropriation of £2,000 worth of property, should have been released on probation while so many petty larcenies are punished with imprisonment, we cannot pretend to say. The fact that he was an alien, having been born in Russia, can scarcely have been regarded as a special recommendation to mercy. However, Sugarman is not to go scot free, since he has been ordered to contribute £75 "towards the costs of the prosecution." On the strength of this figure, we are tempted to inquire how much the Treasury contrived to spend on bringing this single offender before the Court.

Salvage Sugar.

By consent of the Sugar Commission, a supply of sugar salved from a Glasgow fire was offered by auction a few days ago. The official stipulation, however, was that purchasers must be wholesale dealers or manufacturers, and "on no account retail grocers." This makes one of our readers very angry. Though no retailer is allowed to supply more than 8 ounces per head per week, the whole of this local lot is sold to manufacturers, "who seem to be able to obtain as much sugar as they want." In war and peace there have been two outstanding mysteries. One is sugar and the other is sausage.

Home Truths.

The Electrical Trades Union have an outspoken Branch Secretary at Portsmouth. In a recent issue of the *Electrical Trades Journal* he writes a message to local members, in the course of which he says: "There are still a few brothers who I shall be under the painful necessity of crossing out and publishing their names if they do not pay up. Now, come; you joined to get protection, shall I say, from the Army during the war, then carry on and get protection from the army of masters who are equally as much after your body." After such a scathing rebuke the E.T.U. trench-dodgers probably paid up, but we doubt if they looked pleasant.

Don't be Too Late.

Hurry up if you want to win the special "Bullets" New Year Prize of £500. This is the last week.

CANDID COMMUNICATIONS.

This page is devoted to Open Letters to Celebrities, Notorieties, and, occasionally, Nonentities.

To General John Pershing, Commander-in-Chief American Expeditionary Forces.

DEAR GENERAL,—While making all allowance for the fact that you are once more safely back in the land of tall talk, I cannot imagine how you could have the face to declare that America won the war. I know the lads of such villages as New York and Chicago have been for months wearing buttons proclaiming that proud but untrue statement. But I really thought you were too good a soldier and too fine a sportsman to indulge in such obvious flapdoodle. I should like to hear Admiral Sims upon your claim, and would not mind wagering a dollar—at current rate of exchange—that he heartily disagrees with you. Really, General, I *am* surprised!

JOHN BULL.

To B. Oppenheimer, Esq., Founder of the Brighton Diamond-Cutting Works.

MY DEAR SIR,—A line of congratulation upon the marvellous success which has attended your experiment in setting up "limbless men" as diamond cutters, at Brighton. At enormous cost, you erected a model set of workshops, installed in them the most modern and scientific plant, and then proceeded to teach our maimed heroes a business which before the war was practically unknown in this country. And now they are earning splendid wages—and the concern is showing fine profits. Your enterprise was as sagacious as it was patriotic—and here's your very good health.

JOHN BULL.

To E. C. T. D'Eyncourt, Esq., Police Magistrate, Marylebone.

SIR,—It appears to me that you were shockingly unsympathetic towards the wife of an ex-soldier who appealed for assistance in her hopeless quest for lodgings. "This is not a house agency," was your curt rejoinder. It was nothing to you, apparently, that the poor woman had five little children threatened with a homeless Christmas, that her husband had served his country in South Africa twenty years ago, and been disabled in the Great War. Even when a lady in Court offered the family temporary accommodation you could not refrain from a cheap sneer at the deserving applicant. On the whole, I am afraid you were not quite yourself that morning.

JOHN BULL.

To the Chairman, Food Control Committee, Eastbourne.

DEAR SIR,—From recent cases before you, I gather Eastbourne profiteers have nothing to fear. As an instance, Messrs. Mercer, of Grove Road, were reported to the Committee for charging 19s. 10d. for a chicken weighing 7 lbs. 7 ozs., the proper price being 16s. The Inspector reported to you that he had made inquiries and found that Mr. Mercer had charged at the price per lb., and not at the price per chicken; and you decided no action should be taken in the matter. In other words, you not only let off this tradesman without a stain on his profit, but made him a present of 3s. 10d. belonging to the customer. Now, gentlemen, let me tell you what happened to one Shulman at Old Street Police Court in London. Shulman charged 20s. 3d. for a bird weighing 6¾ lbs., so that he beat Mercer by a shade or two in the profit-snatching line. But mark the big difference in the result. Shulman was fined £90. I mention this fact just to illustrate what a nice, kind Food Control Committee you are and what a nasty, horrid Magistrate there is at Old Street. Mr. Mercer, I am sure, must be delighted that he is not within that awful jurisdiction.

JOHN BULL.

To Mr. Samuel James Haines, Motor Transport Service.

GALLANT SIR,—That wonderful exploit of yours for which you have just received the Albert Medal will rank high in the splendid annals of the Mercantile Marine. With no thought but of duty, and careless of your own life, you boarded a blazing launch in the harbour of Archangel, thus averting a terrible explosion and saving valuable stores. For sheer physical heroism this deed of yours was worthy to rank with many that on the field of battle have earned the Victoria Cross. The nation is proud of you.

JOHN BULL.

To Henry Edwin Corfield, Liverpool Road, Islington.

DEAR HENRY,—As a taxi-cab driver you have made a bad hole in your manners, and unless you improve quite a lot I am afraid sooner or later you will come an awful cropper. It appears that, having refused a "fare" at St. John's Wood, you drove off in a great huff and hurry, oblivious or careless of the fact that there was a lady on the step of the cab, who might have been seriously injured through your reckless behaviour. In fining you 40s. and costs, the Magistrate remarked that you had "behaved badly as a cabman," and "appeared to be a considerable liar." I am sure you must have felt that as a testimonial that was not worth the money. But, really, it was your own fault.

JOHN BULL.

To Lord Sands, Court of Session, Edinburgh.

DEAR JUDGE,—We have heard a great deal of your recent animadversion upon the alleged immorality of Scottish women, and I trust that by this time you have repented the hasty reflections in which you thought fit to indulge. You were, of course, perfectly entitled to comment on the case before you—but it was certainly not within your province as a Divorce Judge to embark upon random speculations as to the number of cases of misconduct not brought into Court, and upon this purely conjectural basis to frame a sweeping indictment of Scottish wives. It is not surprising that your observations should have evoked a storm of protest from Berwick to the Orkneys. Please be more careful for the future.

JOHN BULL.

To Messrs. J. H. Beeby (Chairman), Woolhouse, and J. Bird, Justices, Peterborough.

GENTLEMEN,—You could trust men in khaki with a war; you cannot trust them with a dinner and concert. Sitting for the consideration of music and dancing licences, I see that you granted extension of hours for several private dances, including one to Lady Winfrey, at the Grand Hotel but; when an application was made for extension "on the occasion of a re-union dinner and concert for discharged soldiers and sailors at the Paul Pry Inn, Walton," you refused it. I am not able to divine the reasons for your differentiation; but I trust that those who trip the light fantastic toe during the festive season at the Grand Hotel will not look upon the wine when it is red, nor upon the whisky-and-soda when it bubbles in the offing—while I am equally sure that the police would not have had to carry out the discharged soldiers and sailors in a state of undisguisable inebriety. If I had been in your place, I should have been inclined in any event to take the risk. It would have been a compliment to men who have helped to fight the good fight.

JOHN BULL.

To C. A. McCurdy, Esq., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food.

DEAR MR. MCCURDY,—After perusing your recent speeches on the food situation, I am wondering if I ought to eat my Christmas dinner at all, or whether it might not be a good plan to save it up for next year. Last year was bad, and this one far from good; but if your experts are to be believed, A.D. 1920 is to be as lean and hungry as the seven cows of Pharaoh's dream. I do not want to plant the furrow of dull care upon your distinguished brow, but I am afraid if all you predict comes true your job will be "to let" before the New Year is far advanced. We really cannot put up with a Food Ministry whose leading officials can scarcely open their mouths without making us all feel hungry.

JOHN BULL.

To the Rev. Hugh P. Ferguson, Baptist Chapel, Lowestoft.

DEAR PASTOR,—When a church encourages dancing under its own supervision, it hurts you. I do not see why you need worry. Be gloomy and lugubrious in your own chapel, if you like, and if it suits the congregation; but do allow other ministers the exercise of their own matured views. Just when the Church begins to show a gleam of reason, up you pop and strive to dowse it. Your suggestion that the Bible does not favour dancing reminds me of the classical example of David, who danced "before Saul," so I guess Saul joined in later. Why not start a course yourself? As pastor in a seaport town, I suggest you should begin with the "Sailor's Hornpipe."

JOHN BULL.

To Miss Eliza Reynolds, Saffron Walden.

DEAR MADAM,—I do not, as a rule, interfere in family quarrels; but as it is Christmas time, and most of us are feeling happy, I venture to suggest that you should stop playing the fool. Above all, when you visit your relatives and the atmosphere grows heated, don't go spitting about the place—for it is a nasty, dirty habit, most unbecoming in an elderly spinster. Behaviour of this kind, legally construed as "assault and trespass," has already resulted in judgment against you for £35, in a suit at the instance of your brother-in-law and his family, who simply cannot put up with your filthy temper. At 65 years of age, you ought to know better. Please let me hear no more of it.

JOHN BULL.

To His Honour Judge Cluer, County Court, Shoreditch.

DEAR JUDGE,—There may be nothing really the matter with you except your liver, but if that's so why don't you take something for it? Several people call my attention to an application made to you by a mother of eight, who carried a baby. She is the wife of a soldier. Your Honour had already ordered her to clear out of her home, belonging to Sebright's Endowed Schools, because she had not paid her rent. She had no where to go, she explained, and could not walk about with eight children at Christmas—would your Honour give her something from the Court that would admit her to the workhouse? I assume she meant some paper or other; yet you could not have been more brusque and unconcerned about the plight of this hardpressed, struggling woman and her soldier's brood if she had come to you to borrow a fiver! "I cannot give you anything from here," you said; "you must go in seven days." Where was she to go? To the Devil, I suppose, for all you cared. However, others have shown more sympathy than either yourself or your learned brother Marylebone way.

JOHN BULL.

A SEASONABLE SUGGESTION.

FATHER CHRISTMAS (to LLOYD GEORGE, who is busy modelling the "New World"): "Pity you couldn't have got it done in time for Christmas, David. It would have been just the thing for me to take round to everybody, wouldn't it?"

A HEARTLESS PROSECUTION.

"JOHN BULL'S" INTERVENTION SAVES POOR MAN FROM GAOL.

The result of our intervention in a criminal case at the Old Bailey was to secure a fair trial and lenient judgment for a man whose misfortunes made a strong appeal to our sympathy. Since early life John Hester, of 259, Victoria Road, E., had been of somewhat feeble intellect, owing, it is said, to a severe attack of sunstroke sustained as a boy; at the same time, he had always been known as an honest, industrious worker, two of his former employers speaking in the highest terms of his trustworthiness and steadiness of character. However, twelve months ago, while in the employ of Messrs. Abram Lyle and Sons, of Silvertown, the poor fellow met with a nasty accident, sustaining further injuries to his head—his state of mind thereafter being so confused that in the course of the consequent Compensation proceedings at the Bow County Court he undoubtedly did, under the stress of cross-examination, make certain misstatements as to the dates on which he had worked for other employers. Before the case was ended the matter was cleared up, the dispute being settled in favour of Messrs. Lyle and Sons. Nevertheless, the firm—not satisfied with their legal triumph—actually lodged an information against Hester for the crime of perjury. In the circumstances, we made it our business to arrange that the poor fellow, who in our opinion had no deceitful intention, should be properly defended; and as a result of a strong appeal made to the Judge by Mr. J. D. Cassels, Hester was bound over in his own recognisances. The episode is another illustration of the risk which a poor person runs owing to his inability to provide funds for his adequate defence, even when liberty is at stake.

A BABY'S DEATH.

JURY CENSURE MANAGEMENT OF MATERNITY HOME.

At an inquiry into the death of an eight-months-old baby at Wakefield, the Coroner, Mr. C. J. Haworth, expressed the opinion that the Wakefield Maternity Home and the local Poor Law Infirmary were "as well-managed as any similar institutions in England." The infant, it appeared, the child of a divorced woman, having been put out to nurse by the mother, became seriously ill, and was ordered by the doctor to be removed to the Maternity Home. The sequel is distressing. A week or two later the poor child, by this time in a dying condition, was bundled out of the place. The excuse put forward by the Matron, Miss Charlotte Dixon, was that, owing to the unexpected arrival of an infectious case, it was absolutely impossible to keep the dying child in the Maternity Home, her duty having, as she thought, been sufficiently discharged by communicating the facts of the case by telephone to the Poor Law officials. The Relieving Officer, it seems, was not at the moment available to sign the necessary order for admission; and, with no more care than was implied in these casual proceedings, the dying baby was returned to its foster-mother. On these facts the jury found that "no blame was to be attributed to the representatives of the Union Infirmary, but they did think that in view of the child's serious condition and the inclement weather it ought not to have been removed from the Maternity Home, and that some provision ought to have been made for its retention." With this verdict there will be general agreement, and as the Maternity Home is apparently a public institution, we commend the incident to the careful notice of the Local Authorities.

POLICEMEN AS LAWYERS.

ST. HELENS AUTHORITIES ADOPT OUR FRIENDLY SUGGESTION.

See how things happen. A few weeks ago, touching upon a scandal that has frequently been ventilated in these columns, we ventured to reiterate our conviction that it was most undesirable for a police-officer to appear as Counsel for the Prosecution in Magistrates' Courts," adding that St. Helens was "one of the few important towns" still maintaining this objectionable practice. A week or two later the St. Helens Borough Council met, and, sure enough, this very subject cropped up for discussion. Not that anyone had been reading JOHN BULL; oh, dear, no! Of course they never mentioned it; its name was never heard! On the motion of Alderman Forster however, it was resolved that a solicitor be appointed to conduct the prosecutions in the Police Court, the suggestion being received with remarkable unanimity. "As a matter of fact," said the worthy Alderman, "it was only in small towns that the Chief Constable was supposed to do this kind of thing, and for years it had been felt that they had been not only unfair to the people who had been brought to the Court, but unfair to the Chief Constable in imposing upon him a duty that did not belong to him, and which he ought never to have performed in St. Helens, at any rate during the last years." The wonderful similarity between these views and those we ourselves adumbrated only a week earlier flatters us immensely; and that the worthy Alderman should have chanced to employ our own arguments, almost in our own words—without, of course, ever having read the paragraph in JOHN BULL—still further enhances the "compliment implied," for which we tender grateful thanks.

THE RETURN OF A TRAITOR.

A SCOUNDREL WHO MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO POLLUTE THE SOIL OF BRITAIN.

WAR brought out the best in our blood. But it also brought out the worst—it threw up the scum. There were a few men bearing the English name who saw in the nation's peril the chance to foul the home nest, to cast mud at the country that bore them. These mean men like Aubrey Stanhope (the son of a British peer) and Houston Chamberlain, in Germany, and Frank Harris, in America, were traitors of the blackest colour. They prostituted their minds and debased their pens to succour the enemy and darken the fair fame of Britain. Chamberlain is a low renegade whose name stinks in the nostrils of all honest men. Aubrey Stanhope it was who, in the *Continental Times*, a poisonous paper published in Belgium under German occupation, did his best, by lying news and base insults against the land of his birth, to turn the current of neutral sympathy in favour of the murder-nation—not a difficult matter when it was thought the Hun was winning.

THE WORST OF THE THREE.

But of these three, the one who deserves most the execrations of all decent men is Frank Harris. He chose America for the spitting forth of his venom and the display of his vicious spleen. He went there in those crucial years when the eyes of the Allies were anxiously turned to the States; when the enemy, by wanton murder and foul infamies, had alienated the sympathy of the civilised world and all that was best and most humane in America was on the side of Right. It was a time when any honest Briton would rather have had his tongue cut out than speak ill of the land of his birth—rather that the pen fell from a palsied hand than write one word which could encourage the pro-German element in America and depress the ardent souls of those who yearned to see their great nation leap to arms in defence of Civilisation and Justice.

Harris, disgraced and discredited in his own land, crossed the Atlantic to write in wicked and venomous terms of his native Britain. It was a spectacle as humiliating as it was infamous. Here was a man of undoubted ability, facile and eloquent of pen, stabbing his own people in the back; doing his best to create the bitterest prejudice. His traitorous articles were welcomed by our enemies—and there were many in America. Nothing he could say was too bitter or too vile for the hyphenated creatures whose one hope was to see us beaten to the dust, our Allies broken, and the German hound stride with arrogant brutality over the bodies of brave men. We can more easily forgive the cruelty of the now fallen foe than wipe out of memory the deeds of such traitors as Chamberlain, Stanhope, and Harris.

HARRIS RETURNING "HOME."

It would be adding the insult of a polluting presence to the injury every patriot must feel that this man once breathed the same air, if he were ever allowed to return to the land he has vilified and traduced. Yet it is actually stated that he is returning "home"—home to the nest he has fouled and the people he has slandered. We make known the fact at the earliest possible moment, so that the authorities may take immediate action to prevent him ever again putting foot upon British soil. If such a creature is to be allowed to come amongst us, then we may as well invite the Kaiser to be the honoured guest of the nation—and set up a statue to Von Tirpitz in Trafalgar Square. This scoundrel, we repeat, must never again be allowed to pollute British soil. The war is over; we are ready—too ready, perhaps—to forget a good deal. But Frank Harris, the vilifier, the traitor, cannot and must not be permitted to return.

His crime is not the less a crime because he has not yet been brought to account for gross misconduct committed in the war. If he had dared to put his nose into the country while we were still at grips with the enemy, he would have been arrested, tried, and—we hope shot. Does it mitigate the magnitude of his crime that the war is ended, and ended in a way he strove by mind and pen to prevent? It was this traitor who, knowing the truth, dared to assert that Great Britain was waging the war "not for freedom which she withholds from her own children," not for Belgium, "but simply to destroy the industrial competition of Germany, and to annex as much as she can of Germany's trade and commerce."

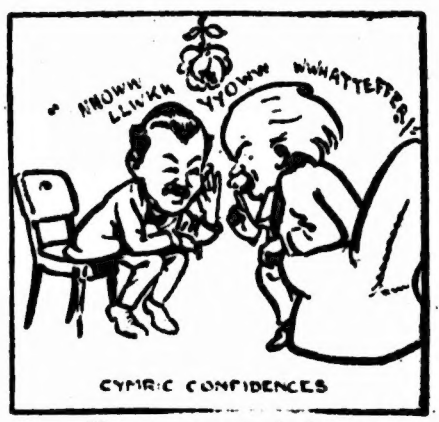
DETESTED, SPURNED.

In America our enemies made much of the fact that Harris was of British birth. It was milk and honey to them to find a man who voyaged straight from London to carry the banner of Germany amid the multi-coloured scum of the American people. All that was best in the States detested the writings and spurned the personality of this renegade Briton. And when, at long last, patience and humanity being exhausted, America came into the war, creatures like Frank Harris found their villainous trade at an end. America had a short way with traitors!

Many a man put the sponge of a genuine patriotism over a murky past when war set a new standard of manhood. Creatures like Stanhope and Chamberlain and Harris seized the opportunity, not to come out boldly for Country and for Right, but to prostitute their talents in the service of the enemy—and of Wrong. By their conduct they have proclaimed their own sentence—banishment from the land they spurned and the cause they despised. If Frank Harris reaches these shores, he should be immediately arrested and tried as a traitor. There is no "Statute of Limitations" for the renegade. He is an offence against patriotism, a danger to the State. Any leniency would be grievously misplaced, any attempt to whitewash the past an ignominy. Frank Harris and all of his kidney have committed the greatest of all crimes—the crime against country. They can expect no mercy.

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.

John Bull to all his faithful friends
The heartiest Christmas Greetings sends!



Those secret understandings are
To proper government a bar.

The Government's rude depredation
Arouses Rosebery's indignation.

Were fearsome animals exist—
What price the Russo-Bolshevist?

McCurdy's tales don't break our sleep;
Our solid flesh disdains to creep!

Despite the Cassandras of Mister Ports,
The earth revolves just as it ought-a.

No doubt soon on the screen we'll see
Spectral cinematography.

Can they revive the frantic joys
The circus gave, when we were boys?

A CONCHY'S GALL.

ASTONISHING LECTURE TO SOLDIERS AT DERBY.

Councillor Reuben Farrow, at Derby, has been holding forth on the subject of "Why He is a Conscientious Objector." The amazing thing is that his smug harangue was delivered to the Derby Branch of the N.U. of D.D.S. and S., while, further, he declared they had invited him to do so, and some persons in the audience moved and seconded a vote of thanks to him, which was carried. Perhaps the soldiers there were members of a non-combatant corps. The presence of a few of the real "boys" would surely have enlivened the proceedings. We cannot understand men who have been "over the top" sitting and listening to all the stale stock arguments about the teachings of religion and being kind to our brother the enemy. But ex-soldiers of Derby sat like lambs and swallowed it all. They will next expect us to kiss the Dunn family. But we promise not to.

A DOCTOR'S FEET.

TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCES OF BOY'S DEATH.

Unless Dr. Calder, of Rosyth, can keep his feet in order, he had better retire. The other day the four-year-old son of Mr. Gordon Calder, of 96, Queensferry Road, Rosyth—the similarity in the names is a mere chance coincidence—was seized with sudden illness. Unfortunately, however, the doctor could not come out that evening, as there was snow on the ground and "his feet were sore." On hearing this, the father summoned another medical man in the neighbourhood, but this gentleman declined to attend a patient who was "in charge of another doctor." The result was that the little boy died without any skilled medical effort whatever to save his precious life. If Dr. Calder had any excuse, apart from his "sore feet" and "pains in his heels," it was that the summons to attend the dying child ought to have reached him in the morning, so that he could have dealt with the case on his ordinary "round," when presumably he had the use of some sort of conveyance—but this was impossible, as the child's collapse did not occur until early in the afternoon. "So far as Dr. Calder was concerned," said the Sheriff, "they had the fact that he had a message sent him three times that day asking him to come, and he never came."

MAMMOTH WASTE.

LATEST WHITE CITY EXHIBITION.

The latest White City exhibition is one of scandalous official incompetence and waste. It appears that what is going on is nothing less than the bodily transfer of the huge stores accumulated at the Shepherd's Bush establishment to the Army Service Corps Depot at Park Royal, a task entailing the use of about 50 Army lorries, and the services of some 150 men. Up to the present, we understand, about 500 tons of clothing has been transferred in this way, in addition to vast quantities of boots and other smaller stores—a huge effort of transport which must already have cost the nation many thousands of pounds. As far as we can judge, hardly any of the transferred goods are of a kind that the War Office will need to retain permanently, and it passes comprehension why this enormous expense should be incurred when, without detriment to the needs of the Army, the bulk of the stores might have been marked for immediate disposal at Shepherd's Bush. If, on the other hand, it is necessary to retain them, it might be expected that the Government would make use of their extensive powers to continue in occupation of the White City for a further term, and thus save the huge and unproductive expenditure in money and labour involved in the transference to Park Royal.

Open Letter from Uncle Cheeriboy
to
Horatio Bottomley

Brother Optimist,

However serious your warning, there is ever that cheery note in your message that warms my heart as it encourages the millions who read it. "If we are only true," say you, "we shall pull through. There is no need for whining." — Splendid. — I'll warrant your Liver is in good order and if everyone else would take an occasional dose of Page Woodcock's Pills there would be less dismal chat about anarchy and more *real effort* to prevent it. What say you?

UNCLE CHEERIBOY.

PAGE WOODCOCK'S PILLS were famous over seventy years ago and to-day they are just the same—a pure vegetable remedy that assists Nature as a corrective for indigestion, biliousness, constipation, anæmia, palpitation, blood impurities, kidney complaints and liver troubles. Be fair to yourself and accept this natural unfailing aid to health TO-DAY.

They make and keep you fit!
Sold by all Chemists. 1/3 and 3/- per box.
Have cured millions. Why not you.

Page Woodcock's Pills 109

A PROFESSOR'S PRANKS.

COSTLY TRANSACTIONS WITH ALLEGED INVALID.

Our friend "Professor" Alexander, M.A., of 19, Ranelagh Villas, Hove, the invalid "competition expert," is still endeavouring to inveigle competition enthusiasts into parting with considerable sums of money in exchange for his brainy assistance—his latest blandishments being in connection with our "Bullets" Competition. In spite of his "spinal complaints"—on account of which, if they are genuine, we tender him our sincere sympathy—Professor Alexander is a prodigious letter-writer, a Blackpool reader who fell into his neatly-baited trap having been simply snowed under with advice and directions, worth at the present high price of stationery, a good deal less than the paper used. The "Bullets" entries compiled by Professor Alexander and forwarded for our inspection are a very poor lot, hardly one of which would have had the faintest chance of a prize, although if the "scheme" had been carried out in its entirety the cost to the competitor would have been extremely heavy.

A PATHETIC APPEAL.

BETRAYED GIRL'S CRAVING FOR SYMPATHY.

A pathetic "human document" reaches us from a poor girl at Ilford who, after a brief episode of passionate affection for an Australian soldier, finds herself deserted by her lover, who had shamefully concealed the fact that he was already a married man. To add to the tragedy of the situation, a child has been born, stamped for life with the cruel brand of "illegitimacy." The poor woman's letter is a pathetic protest against the wrong and injustice of it all—especially the iniquity of the law that ostracises the harmless child. The betrayed and deserted girl asks for our "advice and help." What can we say or do? What word of sympathy can be uttered that does not savour of hollow cant and mocking pity? What the poor thing chiefly needs, it seems, is the touch of a friendly hand, the joy of contact with some genial soul who will treat her as a woman still worthy of respect, and her child as the pledge of an affection that while it lasted was as pure and honest as any sanctioned by the rites of wedlock. What an opportunity for the exercise of the saving grace of Christian charity—of the spirit appropriate to the Christmas season, when we remember the story of the Maiden Mother and of the Child Whose humble cradle a proud world despised!

OUR CHRISTMAS POOR FUND.

YULETIDE GIFTS FOR THE LONDON POOR.

For some years past it has been our habit to appeal to the generosity of our readers to enable us, during the Christmas season, to distribute gifts of food, clothing, toys, etc., amongst the East End poor. Our system is to purchase meat, groceries, coal, etc., by means of orders upon local tradesmen, thus enabling the recipients to enjoy the food and fuel and other comforts in their own homes, with their families—as we are sure our readers desire.

We also appeal for left-off and unwanted clothing of all shapes and sizes. A band of willing workers will carefully sort the articles into suitable lots. Toys, too—however old—are always welcome for the little ones, and the same remark applies to oranges, sweets, crackers—in short, to anything likely to bring a little happiness and sunshine during Christmas time into the homes of the poor.

Every subscription and gift will be gratefully received, and acknowledged.

Subscriptions should be forwarded direct to our Offices, 93, Long Acre, London W.C.2., but all parcels of goods, etc., should be sent to the JOHN BULL Depot, 25, Church Road, Homerton, E.9. *Please* help us.

THE PEOPLE'S PULPIT.

The readers of "JOHN BULL" discuss matters of Public Interest.

In giving publicity on this page to the views of correspondents, preference will be accorded to brief letters bearing name and address for publication.

All envelopes and letters must be marked "P.P." in left-hand corner.

Letters for this page must relate to public, as distinguished from personal, topics.

For short acknowledgments of communications and replies to other letters—selected from our general mail—see "Letter Bag" page 18.

Five Guineas is paid to the writer of the most interesting letter. That amount has been sent to Mr. Alec. Purves.

Tax Trade Vehicles.

A huge source of revenue (which would cause little inconvenience to those concerned) might be tapped by the taxation of trade vehicles of only £1 each per year. It seems unfair that a struggling tobacconist should be taxed for his horse and van, while a [illegible] should be exempt. [illegible] Tobacconists' Union, 17 Wyndham Road, Lyndhurst Road, Worcester Park.

"Reported Missing."

Knowing of at least one such case in which [illegible] should be [illegible] whilst an inmate of a war hospital [illegible] would it not be a wise [illegible] to [illegible] publish in full every incident of conduct now in hospital records throughout the country at all the picture theatres?—F. BALKWILL, Vincent Road, Sheffield.

Press "Propaganda."

The time has arrived when censure restrictions should be put on the use of what is known as "Propaganda," which is now being published so indiscriminately, that the average man is continually being misled as to facts. Editors of papers should be compelled to print Propaganda under a specified heading; and to publish an article in which facts are distorted should be a [illegible] punishable offence.—G. LAKE, Rettendon Common, Essex.

Played Out?

Within the last few days we have seen the cheery spectacle of a testimonial being turned down by "Pussyfoot," the catastrophe of an American woman M.P. being called to order on the floor of the House of Commons for chattering, and as a grand *finale*, a Frenchman taking only a few seconds to put the Hope of England fast asleep; and we take it as a matter of course and cheer accordingly. By the way, do we still hold the Tiddley-winks Championship?—E. C. CALVERT, Manor Road, Tufnell Park.

Political Promises.

The papers report that a lot of foreigners, including fifteen Huns, were naturalised the other day. Most of them were tailors. Therefore the statement made in Parliament since the Armistice, to the effect that *no aliens of enemy origin* were to be naturalised for a period of 5 years, must be regarded as yet another broken political promise. There is no sufficient work for our own folks, and there are plenty of disabled men who, with training, could become efficient tailors!—T. COOKE, Wenlock Street, N.

Dormant Charity Funds.

When the Dormant Bank Balances are shelled out of the bomb-proof safes, it would be worth while turning our attention to the balances in the hands of all the dormant "Disaster" and other Charity Funds. Some of them, at this date are only kept alive to pay officials, and are forgotten by a generous public. If a Return for the last 50 years was asked for from every city, town and village in the country; astounding sums would be discovered.—JOHN MACDONALD, King Street, Glasgow.

"Shift" the Goods.

To remedy the chaotic state of congestion prevailing at the docks and goods clearance yards of the railways, why not institute the plan of continuous work by three "shifts" of eight hours each? Not only would this clear the docks and all points of goods clearance where congestion is prevalent, but it would absorb a great number of the unemployed of the localities. The Trade Unions concerned would surely agree to the proposal, as they represent the class that is being hit the hardest by the present state of affairs.—ROBERT G. MAGNUS, Vicarage Road, Leyton.

Buck Up and Build!

Why cannot the Government institute a great building "offensive," giving all building materials priority with the railways, canals, and coastwise traffic? We spend countless thousands floating loans, advertising "surplus" sales—why not switch on some of this money into the proper channels for "Houses for Homeless Heroes," by employing the unemployed? Never mind Trade Unionism and all its farces; give the men jobs at a living wage. We don't want doles—they are just screening the shirkers and saving the Government administrators endless trouble.—HEXTOR WRIGHT, Priory Street, Colchester.

Safety "Cages" for Coal Shafts.

To prevent [illegible] accidents at mines, when the cage is decked to the bottom of the pit through the breaking of the rope, pressure should be brought to bear on the Government to pass a Bill compelling colliery owners to adopt the best invention made, which holds the cage when the rope breaks. There is such an invention awaiting orders.—L. LEWIS, Dan-y-Terrace, Tylorstown, Glam.

Text of the Treaty.

The hesitation by Germany to sign the Peace Treaty focuses public interest on this historic document. Few people can have read the full text of the Treaty, which occupied so long in compiling at Versailles. Could not a pamphlet be published giving the full text, so that the man in the street could obtain for a few coppers a comprehensive knowledge of Germany's obligations to the Allies for the future?—B. R. ATTENBOROUGH, Hainton Avenue, Grimsby.

Re Life Insurance Bonuses.

When will the Life Insurance Companies resume the pre-war practice of declaring a bonus, each year, on policies "with profits," for which an extra premium is charged? Considering the large dividends paid to shareholders by the majority of life insurance companies, surely the conditions governing these policies before the war should be reverted to immediately, or else the premiums at present being paid should be reduced, and the amount already paid in excess of premiums on policies "without profits" deducted from future premiums due.—THOMAS SCOTT, Hanover Road, West Norwood.

Test of Temptation.

Do those good people who are so anxious to prohibit anything they don't happen to want themselves, ever consider what a weak-kneed, flabby race of slaves an untempted nation would ultimately produce? If Liberty means anything, it surely means freedom of choice. I have no desire to defend the drunkard, but education and decent conditions of life would do far more for temperance and the general well-being of the nation than any Prohibition Act, and would help us to keep first place in the van of the world's progress which we have won without Prohibition.—ALEC. PURVES, High Street, Lauder, Berwickshire.

Penalising Commerce.

At present thousands of men are kept off "the road" by the wickedly high rail fares. Firms paying salaries employ as few as possible, while the large number of men working on commission and paying their own expenses, are painfully penalised. Thus comparatively little travelling is being done, and much possible business is lost, at a time when effort should be concentrated on securing the Home trade for Home productions.—HARRY PIDDUCK, Garnett Avenue, Liverpool.

Railway Control.

The Railway Companies have been blamed for the alleged congestion, but the real cause is the fact of the Government retaining control of the lines. The solution lies in the Government releasing them and restoring them to their pre-war owners. Then once more competition would be started and within a short period there would be no congestion, and the trader would get all the wagons he requires, as each Company would be all out to get the traffic.—A. MAY, Monument Road, Edgbaston.

Cotton Profiteers.

When will the Government do something to check the wicked profiteering going on among the big cotton companies, whose balance sheets plainly show the enormous profits they are making? It is felt most by mothers of large families, and small private dressmakers whose living is made among the working class people. A reel of cotton now costs sevenpence-halfpenny against threepence pre-war charge; and a yard of sateen now sold at 1s. 4½d. is not so good as that which was sold at 6½d. before the war.—OLIVE BURGESS, Vicarage Road, Eastbourne.

Medical Etiquette.

Last week we read in the newspapers of a cure for consumption, which cannot be used for the good of mankind owing to "medical etiquette." Could Government not pass a law that would save for the benefit of humanity any medical discovery of importance made outside the profession?—JULIA ELLIS, Pinloon, by Forfar.

Compromise for the Children.

The objection of landlords to children is often caused by fear of their houses being damaged. If places were let at a slightly less rent, with an agreement by the tenant to keep the house in ordinary good repair, the landlord's expenses would be reduced and a careful tenant would not be out of pocket.—G. C. PARRY, Hughenden, Bembridge.

Secret Diplomacy.

The recent events in Germany and the "secret notes" sent there again recall the question of more open diplomacy. The people of every country should be given a fuller and more just idea of what is happening and also be enabled, through their Members of Parliament, to voice their opinion on vital national and international questions.—L. ROTHWELL, Peel Street, Farnworth, near Bolton.

Starving the Signalman.

Are the public aware of the low wages paid to the man who is responsible for their safety while travelling? Hundreds of main-line signalmen receive only from 26s. to 27s. per week, plus 33s. war bonus. If a signalman makes a mistake which results in loss of life, he is brought up on a charge of manslaughter and is sentenced to penal servitude. Unskilled labourers are paid better than this.—E. HOUGHTON, Wood View, Silkstone Common, nr. Barnsley.

Making War Medals.

Mr. Churchill stated recently that it "will take three or four years" to provide medals for all the men who fought in the war, yet during the war millions of shells were turned out in as many weeks. Here is an excellent opportunity of utilising the services of thousands of the unemployed in the Arsenal, or other former munition centres, in manufacturing medals for valour instead of shells.—Former munition workers especially could easily adapt themselves to the work.—A. ALLEN, Warwick Square, E.C.

Shareholders and "Strikes."

The action of the shareholders in the Army and Navy Stores in deciding to appoint a Shareholders' Committee to look into the employees' conditions of service and remuneration, suggests that it would be an excellent idea for the shareholders of all large concerns to appoint similar committees. They would also be serving their own interests, as a contented staff means more energy and keenness in their work, resulting in bigger business and correspondingly larger profits.—J. R. PLUNKETT, Rona Road, Hampstead.

The Unpopular Act.

The main achievements of the National Insurance Act appear to be the providing of salaries for a multitude of officials, the demoralisation of what was the medical profession, the dispensation of medicines dangerous in their inferiority, and the encouragement of treatment for blue-pip and toothache. The Act's working appears to be modified by individual will without the sanction of those who pay, the majority of whom are heartily sick of it. Why not take a plebiscite as to whether its miserable life should be further prolonged?—STANLEY H. C. MILLINGTON, Rutland Gardens, Harringay.

The Championship Farce.

It is time this farce of the Boxing Championship was ended? Two noted athletes train for weeks to get themselves into the highest possible state of physical perfection—for what purpose? A lucky blow—and all is over. The French champion is declared "the better man" without his opponent having had a chance of showing the stuff that was in him. Let us have conditions which will bring back to the Ring the old English qualities which alone made it a noble art—pluck, manliness, and endurance.—M. WALLACE, Wolverton Gardens, Brook Green, W.

IN THE BARBER'S CHAIR.

FATHER CHRISTMAS.

'Ello! Wot the—I s'pose you've come from thet bloomin' bazaar down the street. . . . You *'aven't?* Orf to a fancy dress ball, then, I s'pose . . . You *ain't?* . . . *I* know—you're actin' in a film play, that's wot it is. . . . Wot, *nothink o' the sort?* Then wot on earth are you wearin' *thet* git up for? . . . You mean ter tell me it's your usual clobber? You'll be tellin' me you're the genuine Fawther Crismuss next! . . . Wot?—Thet's 'oo you are—reely? 'Ere, you needn't try an' make a fool o' me. I've 'ad some. A joke's a joke. Wot is it you want, any'ow? . . . A *shave?* Eh? Wot? Fawther Crismuss wants a *shave?* . . . *And a n'air cut?* Blimy! Wot's it all mean? You won't look no more like Fawther Crismuss then than wot *I* do. . . You *don't want to?* 'Ere, this is gittin' mysteriouser an' mysteriouser! Now, suppos'n you reelly *was* Fawther Crismuss 'imself an' 'ad your shave and 'air cut, the kiddies wouldn't know you! . . . Eh? You *don't want 'em to?* Well, you've got me waxed this time. I earn't make 'ead nor tail of it 'ere. 'Enny'ow, since you want a shave, set down. I s'pose your beard 'll come orf at the first pull. But I don't mind you 'avin' the joke on me. It's Crismuss-time. . . . Strike me pink and blue, but *'is beard's the genuine article!* This'll take some gittin' orf, mister. I 'ope you ain't in a 'urry? . . . *Plenty o' time between now an' New Year's Day?* Oh, it won't take me quite so long as thet, thank you. . . . *Don't forgit your 'air?* No, I won't forgit thet. 'Ave it orf short? . . . *Short as I kin git it?* Well, *you'll* look a pretty Fawther Crismuss by the time I've finished with you! . . . *Want your appearance changed intirely?* Now, look 'ere, mister, don't keep on mystifyin' me mor'n you kin help. Wot *is* the game? *Wot's* the idea? . . . W'en I was a kid, Santa Klaws . . . Eh? . . . *Musn't call you thet no more?* W'y not? . . . *'Cos it's German?* Blimy, I'm beginnin' to see through it! Course! Santa Klaws, or Fawther Crismuss, is a German idea! You wanter conceal your 'Un origin! Thet's wot it is! I've got yer! You want to make out as you're a Fawther Crismuss of English make. Then you kin go to another barber! I won't 'ave nothink to do with you. You know wot a rotten sorter Crismuss this is goin' to be for thousands, and you wanter make out thet Fawther Crismuss ain't a German but a Britisher. You want people to forget thet Germany's responsible for the un'appiness an' 'ard times some of us are agoin' to 'ave this Season. But I won't be no party to it. . . . *Peace an' Goodwill?* Yes, I know all about thet. 'Ow much peace an' goodwill should we be 'avin' if Germany 'ad won the wore? Look at the price o' turkeys! Look at the sugar shortage! Look at the price o' coals, even now they've took ten bob orf! Look at the families wot'll 'ave a n'empty chair at dinner this Crismuss! And 'oo's fault is it? Germany's! No wonder you wanter 'ide the fac' thet you're a German. You're ashamed o' the 'andiwork o' your countrymen, thet's wot it is. . . . Well, I won't 'ave no truck with you. Santa Klaws is a wash out for me, 'enceforth. Nex' Crismuss we'll 'ave a Fawther Chrismuss of our own, an' 'e'll be made in England. We'll call 'im Saint George instead o' Santa Klaws, and 'e'll fill the kiddies' stockin's with English-made toys instead o' with German trash. So, git outer thet chair Mister Herr von Santa Klaws. I won't blunt a razor on you! . . .

Er—w'ere am I? . . . Well, if thet ain't the rummiest dream I've 'ad for many a long day! . . .

PRINTER'S PIE.

(Half-a-crown is paid to the sender of each item published under this heading. Envelopes must be marked "Pie.")

"BURTON EVENING GAZETTE":—"Paddock Selling Steeplechase . . . Two miles . . . Won by 12 MONTHS."

"SOUTH WALES EVENING EXPRESS" (advertisement):—"12 STUDENTS require good, homely Board Residence . . . would not object to SHARING BED if near the centre of the city."

"BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL" (advertisement):—"The doctor said baby was suffering from malnutrition, but nothing did her any good. The doctor gave up hopes of her, but on a friend's recommendation I tried ——, and it SAVED MY DOCTOR'S LIFE."

MAX PEMBERTON (in *The Lodestar*):—"He drew the sofa to the bare table and BEGAN TO EAT THEM."

"DAILY EXPRESS":—"They were both there the little princess . . . and Lord Nelson, lately discharged from the service, and pathetically realistic with his SLEEVELESS ARM and his blind eye."

"DAILY MAIL" (letter to Editor):—"I would spend what was necessary to enable me to reach the TOP of the tree in art, and IF POSSIBLE to RISE A LITTLE HIGHER."

"VANCOUVER DAILY PROVINCE" (advertisement):—"On Monday evening, October 27, Miss —— and ——— —— were united in marriage . . . A SHORT HONEYMOON HAVING BEEN SPENT IN SEATTLE."

"NEWS OF THE WORLD" (serial story):—"Jim Garth awakened . . . to hear the faint, almost inaudible, WHISPER OF A LIGHT FOOTFALL."

"FAMILY JOURNAL":—"He just LIFTED HIS CAP WITH HIS TEETH SHUT TIGHT."

"NELSON LEE LIBRARY":—"But he only SPOKE with his MOUTH, and uttered NO SOUND."

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A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Naturalise Santa Claus—Cut Out the Cards—Let's Have

By THE EDITOR

IT is in a spirit of the warmest goodwill that I tender to all my readers at home and overseas the grand old Yuletide wish—"A Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year." I must be on my guard against the "fatuous optimism" of which I have sometimes been accused; nevertheless it may be said with confidence that, in spite of lingering doubts and perplexities, of laxity at home and perfidy abroad, our hearts are lighter than they have been for many a long day past, and our spirits more in tune with the age-long joys of Christmastide. For the first time in six years we can listen without a haunting sense of mockery to the message of Peace and Goodwill which, according to the beautiful Bible legend, was the burden of the angels' song in distant Galilee. And the more I think of it, the more the feeling grows upon me that this first real Chritsmas of our re-won Peace ought to be a great and glorious Festival of Happiness and Hope. Last year we were too near the shock and agony of war to give ourselves up to the charm of Christmastide—the sound of the guns was still in our ears, and to close the eyes in meditation was to conjure up visions of horror. But at this distance of time we have recovered our sense of perspective. As we taste the homely comforts of the Christmas season, looking into the happy faces of the children and gathering our friends around us in the security of Home, we shall realise that the grace and charm of the festive time, its tenderness and comradeship and good cheer, embody the very essence of what we fought for in those four years and more of strenuous combat, for I can imagine no finer picture of civilisation at its best, of freedom in its fondest shape, than the wholesome fireside revelry of an English Christmas. And this year, thank God, most of our brave boys are home again to share our festivities, and fill up the vacant places at the tables. For some of them this Christmas festival will be the first real "Welcome Home"—an occasion for the re-birth of old friendships and the knitting of new bonds. For thousands of our "demobbed" heroes this is "The Day" that for many a weary month in trenches and billets, fighting and marching, in the agony of suspense and in the flush of victory, has gleamed like a beacon before their jaded eyes. Some hearts are still sad, of course; some eyes still red with weeping for heroes who will never return. But even for these sorrowing ones Christmas has its message of comfort. Death, after all, is an episode that comes but once in what we call Life—slowly, insidiously, painfully; or grandly and gloriously, in a moment of high endeavour. The price that all humanity must pay they have paid in the full heyday of youth or manhood, carrying with them, as I have come to think, into the enlarged realm of the spirit the full quota of their wonderful powers. And I believe that at this Christmas season many will be conscious of their presence, aware of sweet, intimate contacts that no human theory can explain. Believe me, my friends, the true science of "divinity" is as yet in its infancy. We have scarcely begun to spell out the great alphabet of Destiny. For all of us whose perception has not been blunted by a false materialism, this Christmastide may be a season of Revelation, as well as of pure Joy and steadfast Hope.

A Feast of Humanity.

It ought, as I say, to be a grand and noble Festival—the greatest Christmas we have ever had. My impression is that in the past we have not sufficiently valued this fine old institution, that we have sometimes been inclined to let it degenerate into a mean and trivial occasion instead of being as it should be, if history and tradition count for anything, the very type and embodiment of all that we venerate when in accents of patriotism we speak the name of Britain. Perhaps the most remarkable thing about Christmas is the amazing universality of its appeal. It is, or should be, the day on which we make a creed of Charity and perform our devotions before the altar of Home. For a brief space, even the iron barriers of Sect are broken down. For the devout believer, Christmas has a profound religious significance, yet not the veriest bigot can claim that it is a Christian festival and nothing more. Nay, it is a Feast of Humanity, and we who are proud of our British lineage should rejoice that in England, from time immemorial, Christmas Day has been honoured above all other days of the year. The degree to which its warmth and geniality and good fellowship have seized the imagination of the British people is a fine tribute to the qualities of the race. But it can and ought to be something greater still. I want to see in this country within the next year or two a revival of what is commonly implied in the phrase, "A good old-fashioned Christmas"—a reformed Christmas, purged from the invasion of foreign customs, and harking back to the best traditions of "Merrie England." We ought so to renew the splendour of this annual festival that it may become the very embodiment of our British genius—clean, wholesome, broadminded, jovial, generous—the very epitome of the robust qualities that are the foundation of our national greatness. I hold that Christmas Day should be our "Empire Day"—the day on which the whole nation should first in solemn gratitude dwell upon its glorious past, so full of sacred memories, and afterwards resurrect the fine old Christmas tradition, trailing down to us through the centuries, as a sign to the world that the stout heart of old England beats true to the spirit of its forbears, and throbs in unison with the historic glories of the past. Give us "Merrie England" once again—the genuine article—red beef and good ale and honest manly games, not for select circles merely, but for all comers so only they be British. Why should not the public authorities take the lead and offer generous facilities for outdoor sports on the morning of Christmas Day, and later on dancing, games and other harmless frolics, with special entertainments for the children—especially the poor mites whom the war has made fatherless—and a cordial invitation to all who have no homes in which to make merry with their friends? I can see immense possibilities in this direction if only the necessary enterprise were forthcoming—if only our rulers had the gift of imagination and could rid themselves of hidebound convention in their handling of public affairs. I believe it would be a wise step for the State to undertake the provision of sports and entertainments for all classes of the community and especially for the poorer folk in our great cities, for whom life at the best is a drab affair. At any rate, it should be well within the bounds of possibility to ensure a Merry Christmas for all.

Cut Out the Cards.

At the same time I would employ the pruning-hook. It was one of the misfortunes of the last century that our good old British Christmas became to a great extent Germanised, most of the alien customs grafted upon it being of the sort that "never would be missed." And let me say this: If Christmas is to become, in a more real sense than ever before, the great national holiday of the British people—instinct with devout memories of the war and aflame with just pride of race—it will be in the last degree incongruous that it should be associated with reminders of the evil day when Teutonic influence prevailed in Great Britain. I do not want to rob the kiddies of their Christmas trees which, although first used in Germany, have become thoroughly "Anglicised," but I do think we might very well drop the use of "Christmas cards," responsible for I know not how much heartburning, jealousy, and misunderstanding, to say nothing of the wasted labour and misapplied artistic effort, since their introduction in 1846. In a small proportion of cases, no doubt, there is a genuine desire to exchange greetings—although where that is so a friendly letter beats the finest Christmas card on the market to a frazzle; but for the most part, if I may speak with brutal candour, this Christmas card business is just the sort of finicking humbug that might be expected to amuse the Huns. Therefore, say I, "cut it out"; indeed, I am glad to learn that this department of trade—still to a great extent in German hands—is rapidly on the decline. Then there is that distinguished enemy alien, who somehow or other escaped internment during the war, Herr Santa Claus—a hoary old impostor who, in my judgment, and in the sage opinion of many of my juvenile friends, has about had his day. Here, again, I would not for worlds spoil the fun of the kiddies, and if it were really necessary to their happiness I should have to consent to the admission of Santa Claus, with his name changed to Father

TO EVERY READER!

Have an "All-British" Festival—Bury Party Discord.

EDITOR.

Christmas, to the privilege of British "naturalisation," but my own view is that most of our youngsters have outgrown their fondness for this time-worn superstition. By all means give the rising generation the time of their lives at Christmas. Empty your purses for them and you will be the richer for every shilling spent. Lay out all you can afford on good British toys, that are value for money, and will not recall the hated memory of the past. But, if you can help it, don't tax the credulity of budding minds by repeating the German fairy-tale of Santa Claus and his reindeer sledge for the edification of British children. It is contrary to the spirit of our good old English Christmas to pay this compliment to the Huns. And if you must cater for the infant imagination, there is plenty of excellent British folk-lore for the purpose. So we may award Herr Santa Claus the Order of the Boot.

An All-British Christmas.

You see, I want this new Christmas of ours to be All-British—a sacred, symbolic thing; a fitting memorial of the nation's high endeavours in the past, and an earnest of its future hopes. I wish Charles Dickens or Washington Irving were here to fire our imaginations with fresh tales of Dingley Dell and Bracebridge Hall in the days when "Christmas was Christmas," and British hearts knew how to rejoice. Ah, if only we could re-capture the authentic spirit of "Merrie England"—the spirit of Britain's glorious youth! Paradoxical as it may seem, the true line of progress sometimes points backwards, and there are occasions when sound political wisdom may consist not in plunging hastily forward, but in going back upon the great traditions of old times and seeking to re-create the glories of a bygone age. So for the "re-construction" of Christmas I would call up the genius of the past. This great national holiday should be a living reminder of Britain's glorious yesterdays. I am enough of a "Conservative" to respect all that was vital in the past, and even to consider that the fact of a thing having been done for centuries is a good reason for doing it still, so long as it has a meaning convertible into terms of modern life. Therefore I plead for the "old fashioned" Christmas, for the waits and the mummers, for carols and carillons, for roast beef and good beer, for rollicking sports in the open, for the fun of the fireside—for all that, made Christmas Christmas in the days when England was young. Yet I am enough of a "Liberal" to believe that, while "conserving" the traditions to the past, we should wisely adapt the old institutions to modern needs; therefore I say, in view of the sacred experiences of the last five years, Christmas—Christ's Mass—should be not merely a revel but a rite, a Day of Solemn Remembrance, so that our war heroes, whether here or in the Great Beyond, may feel that Christmas Day

Shall ne'er go by,
From this day to the ending of the world,
But we in it shall be remembered.

As home circles are re-united in the radiant glow of the Christmas hearth, we shall feel that but for their miraculous efforts these sacred shrines of family life might have been trampled under the foot of the Hun, that the grand old English festival and all that it stands for—the sanctities of human intercourse, the sweet intimacies of the home, filial love and parental pride, the smiles of the children, and the tenderness of parents—might have been devoured by the dragons of German "Kultur." It is a poor heart that cannot make merry in joyous gratitude for this Great Deliverance. Yes, and I am sufficiently a "Socialist" to hold that at the Christmas season these homely joys should be "in widest commonalty spread," that on this national holiday—which is also a "holy day"—all distinctions of class and fortune should be obliterated in a common feeling of good fellowship, and that we should see to it, as individuals and as a nation, that at this great season of refreshment no citizen of this ransomed Empire shall go without his share of warmth and comfort and good cheer. Once a year, at any rate, let us be in a position to sustain the boast that there is not a hungry man, woman, or child, not a homeless outcast, not an unfriended stranger in any corner of this smiling land. Let it be a "Merrie" Christmas for one and all, and as Tiny Tim said: "God bless us every one." Ah, yes, I can imagine what some of my readers are saying: "There is little use in these sudden spurts of philanthrophy. What is needed is the steady application of humane principles to the perplexed conditions of national life." Quite so, my good friends; but, you see, we are dealing in signs and symbols—always so important in their appeal to the imagination—and it is my firm belief that if we can get the right sort of Christmas, informed by the true spirit of warm-hearted patriotism and genial comradeship, its influence will be felt all the year round, and, in time, permeate the whole structure of our national life. I may be forgiven a touch of sentiment at this season of the year, and I will ask you to consider the probable outcome of the infusion of the Christmas influence—of geniality, of frank good-fellowship, of warm-hearted friendliness, of broad-minded charity, of good nature and large-minded sympathy—into every department of national life. Believe me, my friends, that is the way out of our darkness and difficulty, our petty squabbles and silly misunderstandings, back into the cleaner, purer atmosphere of Merrie England in which the greatness of our island Empire had its glorious birth.

Think of Friendless Souls.

Let yourself go this Christmas. Eat, drink and be merry. Open your hearts and your purses and see to it that some poor friendless soul is the happier because it is Christmas, and, in some form or other, the song of the angels—"Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men"—is part of the eternal truth of things. So heap high the blazing fire—*pace* the Coal Controller—and spread the smiling board (a "Bee" for Mr. Roberts) and settle down to make this Yuletide festival what an English Christmas should be. Shut out Santa Claus and his foreign devices; they are an offence to the clean spirit of Merrie England, which should be the presiding genius at your Christmas feast. The kiddies are sure of a good time—think how easily you might have lost them if the Hun had set foot on these shores, and thank God they were not cradled in Belgium or North-Eastern France—then when they are packed off to bed, tired out but full of happiness, those of you who were "out there" will sit round over a friendly glass and "fight your battles o'er again," while the women chatter in corners and the greybeards smoke their pipes in silence, but for such words of wisdom as can find an outlet between the puffs. I can see the scene in a thousand British homes, and I say, "Thank God for it—thank God that it is still possible, and that our old English Christmas was among the things the Devil's minions could not destroy." Let us strive to make it a finer and nobler Festival, so that our children's children may say: "This thing we do because the great spirit of Merrie England was unconquerable; because our father's fathers were heroes, whose Homes were their dearest possessions—who loved England as a mother and fought to keep her free."

Bury Political Discord.

And, above all, let us improve the occasion by resolving that we will drop Party and all other political bickering and discord. After all, the Peace is a long way from an accomplished fact—and I, for one, do not envy the task of the Prime Minister in putting the finishing touches to it. Poor Little Man from Wales! I fancy *his* cannot be a very merry Christmas—for verily the burdens of State must weigh heavily on his shoulders. Well, we must try to lighten that burden to-day. He will probably spend some part of his holiday in reconstructing his Ministry—shedding some of the hopeless duds by whom he is at present surrounded, and organising his forces for the defence of our hearths and homes from a threatened peril not much less grave than that we have repulsed by the strength of our arms and the valour of our fighters. Well, we must help him—and my Christmas message to him is that, so long as he continues to be actuated by the same ideals which led to his "discovery" in the war, so long—whilst reserving full right of criticism—may he rely upon the goodwill of those for whom in this journal I speak.

[illegible] to him!

JOHN BULL AT PLAY.

RACING, FOOTBALL, BOXING AND OTHER SPORTING NOTES.

RACING.

'Tis a thousand pities that several Lewes trainers should have boycotted the Kempton Park meeting because of the refusal of the London & South Western Railway to takes horses to the Sunbury siding. Holiday racing at this venue on Boxing Day will suffer in consequence, and fields will rule on the small side. What is wrong with the railways these days?

It will be to Wolverhampton that we shall have to look this year for the best Boxing Day sport. The Hon. Aubrey Hastings has decided to make a raid on this holiday fixture, having given the Executive orders for four boxes to be reserved, while Pope is another trainer who has designs on some of the nice Stakes to be run for during the two days. It indeed looks as though Kempton's misfortune will be Wolverhampton's gain.

The effect of making 12st. 7lb. the maximum weight in the Grand National will be that many owners, instead of laying their horses out for the "Blue Riband," will be after some of the interim stakes at other venues. They may not see the fun of chasing Poethlyn hopelessly round the Aintree country, chancing to luck of an accident befalling Mrs. Hugh Peel's "wonder."

Ally Sloper is down to have a cut at Waverer in the Kenlet Steeplechase at Wolverhampton on Boxing Day, and the meeting of these two Liverpool rivals will add a distinct zest to the day's sport.

..... Percy Whitaker has not had the best of luck since he migrated from Royston to St. Giles (Salisbury), but he may quite likely hit on a little double with White Trout and King's Carol at the Kempton Park meeting.

Quite the best-bred hurdler in training at the present time is Mr. F. Bibby's Poman, by Polymelus, and if pedigrees count for anything, and they often do, then this three-year-old should be recording a victory or two "over sticks" before the Lincoln meeting comes round again.

Will Pottinger run in the Victory Steeplechase at Manchester with 13st. 9lb. in the saddle, or did he merely accept to keep the weight down for his stable companion—Pollen? The latter is handicapped at 11st. 9lb., otherwise his weight would have gone up to 12st. 7lb.

Do Stewards who bet see more of a race than those who don't? Lord Lonsdale is proud of the fact that he has not made a single wager on a horse since he "came of age." His abstinence from betting applies as much to boxing as racing, we believe.

BILLIARDS.

Inman is on a great "stunt" in his challenge to the winner of the forthcoming professional championship. He now publicly declares that he will concede 1,500 start in 16,000 up for £250 or £500 aside. It will be such a big do that the gate money, provided a large enough hall is secured, should amply recoup both winner and loser.

Following upon his defeat by Smith, Inman's challenge has an element of "spice" about it that otherwise would have been lacking. The idea of a champion (*i.e.*, the new one), having to be conceded a start, is something out of the ordinary and inconsistent with dignity, and it might have been even more convincing of Inman's faith in his supremacy if he had challenged for a level match. Should he again be beaten by less than the start he concedes, he will be on safe ground so far as reputation is concerned. Should he win, however, on handicap, it will, of course, be another matter, and he will be able to claim that he is vindicated.

FOOTBALL.

Extreme keenness prevails in Northern Union circles to secure places in the team for the forthcoming Australian tour. Trial matches have been arranged for Headingly on Feb. 4, when West will meet East, and at Oldham on March 1, between England and The Rest.

Undoubtedly a feature of the football season has been the healthy revival of the amateur game, especially in the London District, where the local Leagues make for such good fellowship and fine sport. The Middlesex League, the oldest in London, which long ago passed its majority, has triumphantly survived all opposition and is now stronger than ever. Its enterprise in arranging to take a team by aeroplane for a Continental tour shows how very much alive and pushful are their officials.

Please note that this is the last week of our special offer of £100 for ten winning teams or for the next largest number of winning teams. This large sum MUST BE WON this week. Do not miss next week's wonderful must-be-won prize of £500 for ten winning Cup-Tie teams.

WEEK'S RACING SELECTIONS.

Kempton Park—Boxing Day.
Hampton Steeplechase.—*White Trout.
Kew Hurdle Race.—Simon's Craft.
Oatlands 'Chase.—Splinter.

Kempton Park—Saturday.
Sunbury Steeplechase.—*King's Carol.
Chiswick Hurdle.—Llanthony.

Wolverhampton—Boxing Day.
Wyfold Hurdle Race.—*Garryvos.
Christmas Steeplechase.—Square Dance.
Ruckley Hurdle Handicap.—Vanitie.

Wolverhampton—Saturday.
Dunstall Park Steeplechase.—Tally Ho.
Wolverhampton Hurdle Handicap—Kaffir King.
Open Three-Year-Old Hurdle Race.—*St. George.
Staveley Steeplechase.—Copper Hill.

Considerable feeling prevails over the system of Rugby Union selection that makes it possible for Colonials resident in this country to have the preference over native players for the trial teams and the internationals. After all, does it matter very much, as long as comparative merit influences the selections? These fine fellows from our Oversea Dominions are not "foreigners," but are "of ourselves," and it would probably be a menace to the game if they were barred from the higher honours whilst in the Mother Country which they know as "Home."

What a loss to cricket Ranjitsinhji would have been had he been "barred" by similar prejudices. The broad-minded view in sport is the best one, especially where there is ample reason for it. We take it, however, that in the event of a Colonial international team touring the British Isles it would have a first claim on its "exiles."

WHIPPETS.

Apropos of our remarks on the need of proper nomenclature in Whippets, we are glad to learn from a Glasgow correspondent that they endeavour to do things thoroughly in Scotland, where proper names are insisted upon at many of the leading meetings.

BOXING.

Not so long ago we referred to "Frozen-out Fulton"—the freezing process, of course being due to boxing promoters pulling the strings to such an extent, by binding men to contracts, that the American giant could not get a match in England worthy of his fine powers.

Now we have such a popular and successful boxer as Louis Ruddick, who has over 300 victories to his credit and has thrice beaten Tom Noble, lamenting that he has only had two fights in nine months. Harry Reeve is another man who has cause for grievance on similar grounds. Why should the plums go to the favoured few, and would not proper official control, which we have frequently insisted upon, lead to a spirit of equity and give greater encouragement all round, in addition to inspiring public confidence in the game?

Meanwhile we are hoping that Fulton will be given the opportunity of meeting the winner of the Dempsey and Carpentier fight. No championship is convincing if a likely aspirant is crowded out.

HOCKEY.

The Blues Committee of Oxford University have once more rejected the application for a Full Blue for hockey, whereas Cambridge had this honour accorded in 1908. It is interesting to note that one critic refers to the Blues Committee's attitude as "innate conservatism," and another as "inane conservatism." Both are right.

Mr. S. A. Serpell, one of the umpires in the Surrey and Berkshire hockey match, performed his duties from the field of play, as opposed to the usual custom of umpires to keep beyond the touch line. Having regard to his success it seemed to be a good method, as most certainly he could get a better view of the game all the time, instead of sometimes having to rely on long-distance vision for his decisions. Hockey is so fast that it is thought that if the two umpires took the field they would get in the way of the players, but this was never apparent in Mr. Serpell's case.

LAWN TENNIS.

Judging by the present demand for hard courts, it is obvious that lawn tennis will eventually rival golf as an all-the-year-round game. There are, by the way, numerous complaints over the increasing price of hard courts, although it must be remembered that quality and durability are worth much more than mediocrity.

The annual meeting of the Lawn Tennis Association passed off with comparative smoothness, and once more Lord Desborough proved himself a most tactful chairman. There were few bones of contention, but we have a feeling that more difficulties are lurking behind the scenes than appeared on the agenda.

For instance, we hear of a strong agitation on the part of the various Lawn Tennis Associations north of the Tweed for "Home Rule for Scotland." Objection is raised to the tournament levy on players which goes to the funds of the L.T.A., and there is a desire that if the system is continued there should be some direct parochial benefit. This may be one of the matters to come before the prospective extraordinary general meeting.

Another question that was "shelved" from last week's meeting was the scheme for making a levy on individual members of affiliated clubs, irrespective of tournament entries. The original scheme was turned down by strong opposition from the County Associations, and we understand that a special committee is now discussing the most expedient way to augment the funds of the L.T.A. The establishment of an English Hard Court Championship might help.

1920 Start Right

GET THE HOME-SAVING GUIDE

"The Amateur Mechanic"

Written by skilled craftsmen in simple non-technical language, and practically illustrated, is now in constant use by over 55,000 citizens. With this "handyman's guide" at your elbow, you can

Teach Yourself How To Do The Home Jobs That Cost Money

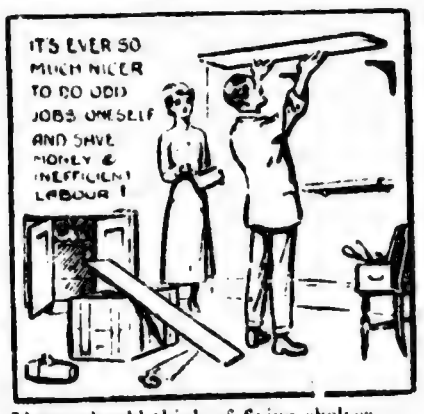
A pipe that bursts through fire or frost
Can be repaired at little cost.

Why pay what boot-repairers ask
When cobbling's such an easy task?

When paint requires renewing, *you*
Can do it very cheaply too!

No need to call in Jones or Brown
If chair or table should break down.

Wallpapers are with ease renewed
No need for workman to intrude.



If you should think of fixing shelves
Learn how to do the job yourselves.

And why enlist the upholsterer's aid
When lino is so simply laid?

So sign the coupon and become,
A "handyman" indeed at home!

HOME EFFICIENCY MEANS REDUCED EXPENSES

The following are a few of the 6,000 Subjects taught in "The Amateur Mechanic."

To make and mend boots and shoes—To make a pair of hand-sewn boots—To repair broken windows—To cure a smoky chimney—To repair a plaster ceiling—To make a tiled hearth—To tile walls—To repair water taps—To overhaul and repair a bicycle, a motor cycle, a motor car—To do tablet and sign writing—To make and repair barometers—To waterproof cloth, coats, etc.—To make bird cages, aviaries, etc.—To build poultry houses, cycle-sheds, workshops, greenhouses, etc.—All about galvanizing—All about syphons—To make hearthrugs from strips of cloth—To make rubber stamps—Home-made drilling machines—How to make a leather suit case—How to upholster old chairs, couches, etc.—To fit a house with electric bells; with speaking tubes—All about practical wireless telegraphy—To repair and clean sewing machines—To put a white enamel finish on furniture—To make incandescent mantles—Gilding metals, etc.—To make a hot-water towel rail—To cure damp walls—To grind razors—To repair faults in hot-water supply—To protect water pipes from frost—To make an "over-door" shelf—To make an ottoman chair from an old cask—To mend a marble top table—To thatch a roof—To harden and temper steel—To join two pieces of iron—etc., etc.

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A Gold-mine of Knowledge.

Mr. WILLIAM DYER, Falkirk, writes:—"I can see I have tumbled into a regular gold-mine of knowledge. You have not overstated their value."

"It has Quite Delighted me."

Mr. GEORGE THOMPSON, Clayton-le-Moors, writes:—"To tell you the truth, I did not expect the work to be so efficient, and it has quite delighted me."

"I can Recommend it to others."

Mr. MOIR, Lanarkshire, N.B., says:—"I must say it is what the advertisement says. If anybody had told me about the "Amateur Mechanic," and what it contained, I should have hardly believed them, but since I have examined the work, I can recommend it to others."

OVER 55,000 CITIZENS ARE NOW USING THIS WORK.

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J.B. 6, 1920.

The NATIONAL NEWS takes national [illegible] ery Sunday.

"TOMMY AND JACK."

Dealing also with the Discharged Sailor and Soldier and their Dependents.

OUR PLEDGE.—"No case of hardship or injustice, no instance of beggarly treatment or mean cheese-paring, shall go unchallenged and unremedied."—*Horatio Bottomley*, 19th August, 1916.

"TOMMY."

How the Money Goes: The Pay Warrant of 1914 laid down that a soldier of under twelve years' service might purchase his discharge for a sum between £18 and £30. It also provided that on re-enlistment he should be refunded two-thirds of the money. The Treasury, however, finding itself hard up, induced the War Office to issue an Order laying down that one-half of the purchase might be claimed, "but not in any case exceeding £9." A further example of the Whitechapel methods of the Whitehall people in seeking to circumvent the Service man.

Another Instance: Men who have been demobilised have their accounts scanned. Some of them have been overpaid as much as ninepence. The Treasury insists upon demands for reimbursement being made on the debtors, but the latter need only reply "Can't pay," and the amount is placed on the shoulders of the public. Before giving the *non possumus* the ex-soldier usually calls for a detailed statement of accounts, which he *must* get. One clerk can prepare only four statements a day, and he is paid £3 a week for his work. And that's the way the money goes!

Rather Strange:—At Felixstowe there are two N.A.C.B. canteens, one run on behalf of the Artillery, the other for the R.A.F. In the first the monthly price lists are posted up during that period and the men are charged accordingly. In the other, the list appears to be displayed only towards the end of the month, and profiteering is the order of the day. It seems to be useless to appoint an inspectress to look after this matter. The Board should send a Chief Inspector on a surprise visit.

"JACK."

Reduced Leave:—The crew of H.M.S. *Vulcan* and the men of the submarines attached to her are up in arms because their Christmas leave was cut down from fourteen to ten days. They ask us why, and we give it up!

Jack's Comfort:—There is no falling off in the number of letters we receive from men serving in the Baltic. Each one from the Destroyer flotillas speaks of the comfort they derive from the "JOHN BULL store-ship," which has made life on the small craft in those Northern waters more bearable. Your thanks accepted, Jack. Hope you will soon have "a spell—O!" in your home ports. This is likely enough, as we are about to leave the Russian to paddle his own canoe.

Handy Man's Handy Brush:—We always knew that the sailor was a good one at getting the most out of things, but we were not prepared for the Admiralty Order just issued telling Commanding Officers to warn their men against using the carpenter's tool brush as a shaving implement, as anthrax germs may lurk in it!

A Strange Discharge:—Having served for over 12 years at home and abroad, a bluejacket named Chilles was told to pack up his bag and leave the ship with back pay to the amount of £2 9s. 5d. in his pocket, no travelling warrant, and no civilian suit. The man's character is stamped "V.G.," which is excellent, and he was given no reason why he was so unceremoniously sacked. However, he believes he has been victimised for writing a letter to a newspaper; but even so that is no justification for throwing a bluejacket on to the mud, almost moneyless, and in a uniform that will land him in jail if it is not changed for *mufti* within seven days.

"THE SILVER BADGERS."

Secretaries of Discharged Sailors' and Soldiers' organisations, in sending cases of injustice or other information, should mark their envelopes "Silver Badgers."

Girls First:—Messrs. Hardy Bros., fishing-rod specialists, have a place at Alnwick. One of their staff in the forwarding department, named E. B. Housby, joined the Forces and fought. With the plea that they wanted the man back, they wrote to the Officer Commanding Northumberland Fusiliers. But when he was discharged he found that his occupation was gone.

Rough on a Hero:—This advertisement, however, appears in the *Alnwick and County Gazette*: "Messrs. Hardy Bros., Ltd., require young ladies, preferably with experience, to assist in forwarding department and office.—Apply by letter, etc." The turned-down hero was given a testimonial by the firm that he was "industrious, honest and trustworthy." Was Housby turned away because he does not wear a petticoat?

Economy!—A Northampton Badger twelve months ago applied to the Authorities to be trained as a tailor's cutter, but the fee of £30 demanded by a school was considered excessive. The man offered to pay £10 himself towards the fee, but was again turned down. In the meantime the Committee that thought £20 too much for a six months' training course has paid the man over £100 as "allowance awaiting training." Once more—"that's the way the money goes."

The Post Office Again:—Herbert Charles Ball is a Mons hero, which is as good as can be said of any soldier. When discharged he became a letter-carrier at Bampton, Oxon. There is no suggestion that he was not efficient in this calling, yet he has been turned away at three days' notice, apparently in order that a man who joined the Army much later than he might get the job.

"THE GREATEST OF THESE—"

[The object of our Fund is to relieve (a) the dependents of our Soldiers and Sailors; and (b) suffering amongst the people generally. No genuine appeal is ever refused, and although we see to it that adequate proof is presented in every case relieved, no harassing or degrading questions are put to applicants. Will you please help? We gladly defray all expenses of administration.]

During the week we had elevenscore of ex-soldiers' wives in poor circumstances who were about to be confined. In seven of them the husbands, like so many thousands of others, were out-of-work. Every day we have applications for clothing with which to keep the little strangers warm; but unfortunately, notwithstanding generous help, our supply does not nearly meet the demand.

Among the numerous cases we assisted during the week were the following:

Ill and Needy:—A discharged man's wife is very ill and in need of extra nourishment. There was nothing of value left in the house to pawn, and the case was a sad one.

Down and Out:—A man who left his native town in a vain endeavour to obtain employment is now away from home and in hospital, and his wife is about to be confined.

A Veteran:—An old warrior, aged 62, has a pension of 12s. 6d. a week, his only income. The poor old boy was ill and in distress.

A Sad Home:—A woman with an ailing husband and four young children to support was herself ill, and nothing in the shape of money was coming into the house.

Quite Deserving:—A man who gave three sons to fight for us has been discharged from a sanatorium as incurable. He owed rent, and had pawned his clothing to make ends meet.

According to Regulation:—A woman, whose husband beat her and left her, had a son who went to the war, consequently causing her to lose his support. The poor boy was killed, and his gratuity and back pay did not go to his mother, but to the inhuman father "according to law." The unfortunate woman was very hard up.

Very Sad:—A widow, whose husband was killed through a tram accident, is now ill in hospital, and asked us for help to buy food for her children at home

A "JOHN BULL" XMAS BOX.

No man or woman imbued with the true spirit of our English Christmas can be indifferent to the sufferings of the Old Age Pensioners, dependent for food and warmth on the State pittance of 7s. 6d. weekly. The case of a poor aged couple at Enfield, well over three score years and ten, is typical of the hardships endured. The old folks are living with a married son, but he, poor fellow, was recently discharged from the Army suffering from an incurable disease contracted on active service. The son's Army pension and his wife's scanty earnings barely suffice for their own support and the special needs of the sick man, so that from their joint pension the old people must contribute 2s. weekly towards the rent of the little home, leaving 13s. for food, fuel and the homely comforts that age and infirmity require. Yet to beg is the last thought of this modern Darby and Joan; their character for honesty and respectability stands high, and behind them is a long record of steady industry and faithful citizenship. Until three years ago, when his strength began to fail, the old man was in regular employment, and it says much for his past thrift that, until its exhaustion a year or so ago, there was a little fund of savings that could be drawn upon in aid of the scanty Old Age Pension. Two other married sons have so many children as to be quite unable to assist the parents—who as State pensioners are ineligible for Poor Law relief. It may be imagined with what satisfaction we have made them a grant from our "Greatest of These" Fund, sufficient, at any rate, to ensure them a share of the prevailing Christmas cheer and to leave a margin for the little delicacies that in his enfeebled condition the old man so sorely needs.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Crew of H.M.S. *Scrapk* (Black Sea), £1 6s.; "Wallace," £1 1s.; W. M. (Darlaston), 2s.; J. H. R. (Edinburgh), 10s.; G. H. A. (Newark), 2s. 6d.; "Edith" (Bromley), 2s. 6d.; Mrs. G. W. (Sheffield), 3s.; R. A. B. (Camberwell), 2s. 6d.; R. S. G., £1; T. B. (Suez), 10s.; "A Scot," 10s.; F. E. S. (Welshpool), 5s.; L. G. (Southsea), 5s.; A. G. S. (Seven Kings), 10s.; "Punch," 10s.; "Mena," £1; "Adrienne," 10s.; E. H. T. (Whitley Bay), £2 2s.; R. B. (Cairo), 2s. 10½d.; Mrs. A. T. (Merton), £1; "In Loving Memory of My Dear Son's Birthday," 10s.; Mrs. C. A. A. (Kensington), £5; "P. M. M.—In Memory of Our Sailor Lad," 5s.; Sgt. E. H. (Huddersfield), 1s. 3d.; A. W. (Batley), 9d.; "Shipmaster," £1; M. J. H. (Maesteg), 2s. 6d.; R. E. (Tufnell Park), 2s.; "Emily" (Finsbury Park), 10s.; Anon. (Ripon), 7s.; "Hapana Kelele," 5s.; M. D., 5s.; H. C. D. (Wood Green), 10s.; G. M. M. £2 10s.; "Driver," 5s.; Mrs. H. C., 10s.; J. W., 10s.; "A Friend" (Blairgowrie), £1; A. E. S. (Leyton), 2s. 6d.; "Chum," 10s.; B. P. (Putney), 1s.; T. P. D., 2s.; J. B. (Peebles), 3s. 6d.; A. M. (Guernsey), 2s. 11d.; A. E. H. (Petersfield), 2s. 6d.; Mrs. F. D. N. (Hove), 5s.; K. S., 10s.; S. A. B. (Fulford), 2s.; Anon (Bradford), 2s.; W. F. S. (Sheffield), 1s. 1d.; H. D. (Bethnal Green), 1s.; L. T. M. B., 10s.; Anon (W'boro'), 5s.; A. P. (Hornsey Rise), 10s.; J. B. W., 10d.; E. W. B (Shropshire), 10s.; J. M. T. & R. L. T. (Walthamstow), 10s.; "Mons to Cologne," 5s.; A A. (London, S.W.), 10s.; Anon. (Uxbridge), 2s. 6d.; "W.," £1.

CHRISTMAS POOR FUND.—E. P. A. (Sheffield), 10s.; "One Who Hasn't Much," 2s. 6d.; H. P. (Grimsby), 5s.; Mrs. A. M. B. (Smallford), 5s.; J. E. B., £5; Mrs. E. M. H. (Hastings), 10s.; H. E. F. (Oldham), 5s.; Mrs. C. (Shropshire), 10s.; Misses M. & D. B. (Harrogate), 6s.; Anon. (Streatham), 2s.; H. V. (Eastbourne), £1; M. W. & A. W. (Chichester), 5s.; "Nemo," 1s.; Mr. and Mrs. E. W. P., £2 2s.; E. B., 1s.; Cpl. Reg., 5s.; C. E. C. (Holborn), 10s.; Anon. (Peckham), 5s.; Hillabys, Ltd., £2 2s. and case of Pontefract Liquorice Cakes; E. E. (Tufnell Park), 2s.; "S. Ealing Reader," 1s.; Mrs. C. (Hull), 5s.; "A Well Wisher," 2s. 6d.; "From Five Little Boys who have Lost their Dad in the War," 5s.; Mrs. P. (Thornton Heath), 2s. 6d.; W. F. M. (Leicester), 2s. 6d.; C. R. & L. H., 4s.; "Demobbed Soldat," 5s.; M. S. (Feltwell), 1s.; E. S. G., £1; E. M. T. (Willesden), £1; Mr. and Mrs. A. M. (Nottingham), 14s.; Anon., 5s.; A. K. M. (Dunkerton), 2s.; H. W. (Llandudno Junction), 1s.; Mr. and Mrs. T. E. F. (Mitcham), 5s.; Mrs. M. E. L. (Glasgow), 2s. 6d.; C. J. (Ealing), 2s. 6d.; H. H. (Hackney), 1s.; "Hapana Kelele," 5s.; G. M. M., £2 10s.

THE ONLY CURE FOR
ASTHMA & BRONCHITIS
PRESCRIBED BY THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

THE GREATEST OF ENGLAND'S PHYSICIANS have used and prescribed Dr. Hair's Asthma Cure, and Doctors are everywhere prescribing it for their patients, acknowledging its sound principles and phenomenal success.

THE MEDICAL PROFESSION'S approval and endorsement of Dr. Hair's Asthma Cure may be summarised by quoting the pronouncement of some of England's greatest Physicians. Notwithstanding the proper reserve of a great and responsible profession, reluctant to lend itself to hasty endorsement of unofficial treatment,

The Royal Physician, Sir Morell Mackenzie, had such experience of Dr. Hair's Asthma Cure as to justify his endorsement of it (as quoted under photograph).

PROFESSOR G. J. ALLMAN, M.D., F.R.S., LL.D., Past-President of the Greatest Medical Society in the World, namely, the British Association, being a sufferer, himself used Dr. Hair's Asthma Cure with "marked success."

Dr. Hair, writing of his own sufferings, says:—"*For eleven years I suffered what I cannot describe, expecting death as the only relief. I tried everything I could hear of, with only partial relief. Finally, I came to adopt a theory of my own in regard to the nature of the disease. Selecting medicines and preventives on the basis of it, I found I was right, and soon I was entirely relieved, and have been free ever since.*"

As Dr. Hair also says, his treatment "**will enable the patient in two or three days to sleep in bed without suffering, and if the directions are followed, Health, Strength, and Flesh will be rapidly restored.**"

The Clergy, being less constrained to reserve by their professional tradition, express themselves more emphatically. The Rev. J. H. Bumstead, Vicar of Hambleton, says: "**Asthma can be cured and Dr. Hair's medicine will cure it.**" The Rev. J. H. Herbert, Rector, of Disserth, Llandrindod, describes Dr. Hair's medicine as—"**An excellent cure without any ill-effects.**" Amongst countless others who have endorsed Dr. Hair's Treatment are—The wife of the

Chaplain to King Edward and Queen Victoria,
CANON WILKINSON,
CANON ATKINSON,
GENERAL SIR HORACE S. ANDERSON, K.C.B.,
GENERAL SYKES,
GENERAL J. P. COODE,
GENERAL W. H. WHITLOCK,
GENERAL G. SMART,
COLONEL W. C. McDOUGALL,
LADY SARGENT,
LADY JULIA A. PERKINS,
LADY CHARLOTTE BERTIE,
LADY E. F. MILLER,
MARGARET LADY HEYTESBURY,
THE BARONESS NOLLI,
THE HON. MRS. M. E. BUTLER, etc., etc.

Theirs and the great testimony of numerous others, proving there is hope of permanent cure for all, is contained in **Dr. Hair's Free Treatise, post free.**

THE ROYAL PHYSICIAN

Photo] [London Stereoscopic Co.

SIR MORELL MACKENZIE, who said: "I have known many people benefited by using Dr. Hair's Asthma Cure."

Dr. HAIR'S ASTHMA AND BRONCHITIS CURE CAN BE OBTAINED AT the leading chemists throughout the world, including Boots' Cash Chemists, Taylor's, Timothy White's, &c., &c. The price of Dr. Hair's Asthma Cure is 3s.; large size 5s.

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Men's Stout · 5/6
" Light · 4/6
Ladies' · 3/-
per set (Soles & Heels).

The Ladies' Sizes are suitable for Boys and Girls.

HEELS SOLD SEPARATELY—
Men's Stout · 2/-
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Ladies' · 1/-
per pair.

FROM ALL BOOTMAKERS

Phillips' Patents, Ltd.,
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¶ Thin Rubber Plates, with raised studs, to be attached on ordinary soles and heels, giving complete protection from wear.

Phillips' 'Military'
SOLES AND HEELS
make one pair of boots last the time of three.

¶ They keep feet dry in wet weather, give a smooth, pleasant tread and do not slip. Excellent for general wear by men, women and children.

"TORTOISESHELL"
Smoking Mixture and Cigarettes.
The Smoking Mixture is now packed in the usual Decorated Tins.

If you could See——
How 50,000 British Soldiers are living.

"If the people at home could see," writes a worker in France, "as I am seeing at Montauban, the conditions under which 50,000 British soldiers are living in the devastated areas, they would insist on the Y.M.C.A. Huts being kept open as long as there are men here. They come into the hut for a warming cup of cocoa, cold and blue, their feet wet and frozen, and the hot drink is a godsend to them. I am sure when it is brought home to the British public, they will answer the call as they have so generously done before, and send out to us the order to 'Carry on.'"

The Y.M.C.A. cannot carry on unless *you* help. Please send cheque to-day to Lord Askwith, Y.M.C.A. Headquarters, 16, Russell Sq., W.C.1.

Copy of Audited Statement of Accounts will be sent on appl

GRAVES
OF SHEFFIELD
Write for patterns, post free, of Suits, Costumes, Coat Frocks, Skirts, Raincoats, Dress Materials, Household Drapery, etc., or Catalogues of Watches, Jewellery, Workers' and Boys' Clothing, Footwear, Sheffield Cutlery, Gramophones and Records, Lino, Carpets, Frames, Cycles, Tyres, Bedsteads and Bedding, Sewing Machines, Furniture, Pottery, Ironmongery, Cycle Accessories, Fancy Goods, Toys, Sports Requisites, Etc.

EASY TERMS

BEACON OILSKINS

will keep you dry always. Men's Coats from 21/-, Ladies' from 18/6. Children's from 16/6 (4 year-old size). Adults' Sou'-westers, 3/-. Long Leggings, 5/- all guaranteed against stickiness, leakage or dissatisfaction, or money-back methods.

Illustrated List Post Free. Send Post Card now for this Art Booklet of "Weather Comfort" 10

BARBOUR'S, LTD.,
67, Beacon Buildings, SOUTH SHIELDS, England.

SMALL ADS. WORTH WATCHING

(Prepaid, unless otherwise stated.)

ROUGH HANDS caused by exposure, housework, etc., soothed and smoothed by using "PLANO" Soft Cake Soap. Cake 1s., or post free, Maher's Chemical Co., Liverpool.

RIBBON BAR — patent non-rewo, General Service and Victory, or any two Ribbons 8d., three 10½d., post free, full size or miniature. W. C. Lewis, 33, Howard St., BIRMINGHAM.

THE TWO MOST HUMOROUS BOOKS ON ARMY LIFE, fully illustrated, are "Good Bye, Ee," 1/- and "Tips for Temporary Tommies," 6d. Read 'em, and enjoy a laugh over your experience of Army Life, now you are demobbed. Arlington Press, Bolton P.S. 71, High Holborn, W.C.1.

YOURS FREE. Worth Pounds. Unique Buying Guide picturing many wonderful Xmas Gifts, also requisite and profusely Illustrated catalogue of Everybody's wants—Cutlery, Razors, Haberdashery, Handbags, Fountain Pens, Watches—all at prices which mean big cash saving for you. Satisfaction guaranteed. Write for the 2 Free Books TO-DAY.—Northcote, Ltd., Dept. 89, Padiham, Burnley.

GOOD SPARE-TIME AGENCY.—Applications invited from respectable working men to regular employment to supply Boots, Suits, Drapery, Watches and Jewellery for cash or credit. Liberal supply of samples. Commission, highest paid.—Apply Freeman, Contractors H.M. Govt., Lavender Hill, London.

BEST and CHEAPEST Wholesale Warehouse for Bagmakers, dressmakers, Drapery, Readymades, Travellers Samples, Stuff for Catalogue free.—Cochrane's Warehouse, 1, Victoria Bridge, Manchester.

BOOTS.—4s. Save 1. Buy Direct from our Northampton Factory. Send postcard for usual gua. Gents', Ladies' and Children's Boots.—John Cornet, Ltd., Dept. 7, Northampton.

HARRIS Tweed, direct from Stornoway, genuine hand made, all wool, from weaver to wearer, best obtainable quality, 11/6 per yd. Patterns post free.—Mrs. MacLeod, Dept. 31, 56, Eastgate, Inverness.

TWILIGHT SLEEP NURSING HOMES, LTD., Bushey Lodge, Enfield, Middlesex. Resident Physician. Write for booklet, Lady Secretary (Office 21).

HARRIS Tweeds, direct from Scotland, genuine hand made hard wearing all wool tweed, direct from weaver to wearer, 11/- per yd. Patterns post free.—A. Dixon, 31, Ness, Ross-shire, N.B.

GERAUDEL'S PASTILLES for Coughs, Bronchitis, Sore Throats, Hall & Sankey recommend. Boots and Silcocks'.

STAINLESS CUTLERY, sample 6 from Sheffield, Resists all Rust and Stains, Never Needs Cleaning. A wipe brightens without cleaning. Dessert Knives, 6 for 21/-; Table Knives, 6 for 23/9.—Post free from Parker & Co., 261, London Road, Sheffield.

PEDIGREE SEEDS.—Scotch Potatoes, Bulbs, Roots, etc. Reliable quality, reasonable price. 44-page catalogue free. Ellison's, West Bromwich. Est. 1880.

AEROPLANES (Real Fliers), AIRSHIPS (Regd.) Post Paid 4d. each. Agents wanted. Dept. J.B. Bristol Model Aeroplane Depot, Eastville, Bristol.

The NATIONAL NEWS takes nati... s—every Sunday.

IN THE CITY.

FINANCIAL NOTES—AND ADVICE TO INVESTORS.

BY OUR CITY EDITOR.

How Long Will it Last?

There is so much money in the country that not even a six per cent. Bank Rate, a collapse in exchanges, and a loan-supported bull account can depress markets—they drop one day and the next day a new crop of ardent buyers springs up. How long will it last? We have eight thousand millions of debt which, thanks to the bankers, we can convert into credits—and we are using it to apply for shares in new companies which one day will again be used by bankers to create more credits. This is the game of pyramiding which the Germans played before the Great War. They were so successful in thinking themselves the richest people on earth that they fought the world. The result we can see—the German mark is worth just over a penny.

Western Counties Shipping Co.

I am inclined to think that the shipping boom has been overdone, and am accordingly regarding prospectuses of such companies now making their appearance with a more than usual critical eye. Here is a concern endeavouring to place nearly two millions of capital, half Debentures and half Ordinary shares, on the strength of its success in comparatively small ventures during the height of the shipping boom. I see no justification for such optimism as is displayed in the prospectus. Doubtless the Debentures are well secured, but the Ordinary shares seem to me to be more than usually speculative.

"Another Lever Absorption."

Under the above heading, I stated in the issue of the 13th that the Maypole Dairy was to be taken over by Levers. I have since received an emphatic disclaimer from Messrs. Lever Brothers, who state that there is no foundation for the rumour.

The Devonshire House Deal.

Devonshire House and land have been offered round the City for quite a long time. But no one seemed inclined to speculate. Then Harry Joseph, of Holland and Hannen, took hold and we are all wondering if he will unload upon the plucky Yankees. The price has varied from time to time. There was a moment when, I think, £650,000 would have closed the deal. How much did Harry Joseph pay?

The newspaper talk about a four-million American hotel may be dismissed as "hot air." No hotel which cost such a vast sum could ever pay.

Among other schemes was one by which the medical men of London were to put up the money to build a unique "clinic," to face Lansdowne House Garden and occupy one-third of the site. The Duke agreed to give very special terms here, because such a place was much wanted. The front facing Piccadilly was to form a set of flats *de luxe* with service. That fell through some months ago.

The fly in the ointment is, of course, the trouble with the authorities. Will they allow a huge building to come right up to the pavement in Piccadilly? This is doubtful. Also, how much of the land is to be taken for the widening of Berkeley Street, and how much will be paid for this land? It is part of the bargain that the street must be widened. But who will pay?

Then there is the question of "Ancient Lights." The whole site is surrounded by legal swamps, into which only the most experienced dare venture. That is why the Duke, always a willing seller, could not find a purchaser, even at a very moderate price, for what is clearly the finest site in London.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

(All enquiries must be accompanied by a postal order for 1s., and bear the full name and address of correspondent as evidence of good faith.)

R. J. N. (Bishopsworth).—You must apply to N. Keizer & Co., 34, Threadneedle Street, E.C.4, but firms are not keen on watching drawings unless the bonds have been purchased through them. Messrs. Davies & Co., 23, Finch Lane, E.C., are agents for a paper which gives the numbers of drawn bonds—subscription about 4s. per quarter.——**R. D. (Glasgow).**—*United Steel* ordinary shares are quite a sound investment and I prefer them to the other company mentioned.——**R. W. P. (Shoreditch).**—"*Metropolitans*" are now quoted about 28¾.——**C. F. (Stretford).**—*Armstrong Whitworth:* The new issue did not go off well, and the price has fallen to about 32s. 6d. I think they are a good purchase at that figure if you have not already subscribed, and a recovery is probable before long.——**C. H. S. (Hale).**—*Manchester Metal Stamping:* The articles provide that two directors are sufficient to carry on the business, so it is perfectly legal. As the company is apparently a private one, you are likely to have some difficulty in disposing of your shares.——**W. H. (Dalbeattie).**—*Rhodesian Exploration* shares, as explained, are just a cheap gamble. *Victory Bonds* can still be bought round 80½.——**J. M. B. (Berwick).**—Oldham mill shares are almost entirely held locally, and the market in them is always so restricted that I cannot recommend any outsider to interfere. There are plenty of good Canadian securities, but you must beware of the "duds." I don't know of anything likely to rise from 20 cents to 200 dollars, though you never know your luck. Avoid bucket shops.——**W. H. S. (Lowestoft).**—*Ranen Copper* and *Steenbok Syndicate* are both derelict, and it is doubtful whether they can ever be revived. Anyhow, you can do nothing but wait and hope.——**R. A. C. (Fordingbridge).** *Anglo-French Oilfields:* Unfortunately developments were not encouraging, and the company has had to suspend operations. The shares are practically valueless for the time being.——**Explore (Putney).**—*Hampton Plains Exploration:* This company disappeared long ago, and I do not think it has the remotest interest in the recent gold discoveries in the Hampton field.

(Many replies are unavoidably held over.)

COMPANY MEETINGS.

GEO. H. HIRST & CO.

Extension of Works. Proposed Reorganisation of Capital.

The twenty-first annual general meeting of George H. Hirst and Co., Ltd., was held on December 16th, at Winchester House, Mr. Arthur Hirst, chairman and managing director, presiding.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen, with your consent, I will take the balance-sheet submitted to the shareholders as read. The result of the past year's trading is very satisfactory, and your directors feel justified in recommending a dividend which I am sure will meet with your approval.

We have got back most of our export trade, and, with the further extensions in view, we hope to be able to increase this branch of our business considerably. In considering the accounts, you will observe that the profit for the year, after making full depreciation and also reserving the amount payable for excess profits duty, leaves us a distributable balance of £69,188 2s. 10d. including the amount brought forward from last year of £10,714 9s. 1d. From this sum we have already paid the fixed dividend on Preference shares, amounting to £1,750, together with the fixed dividend on the Preferred Ordinary shares, amounting to £12,800. An available balance of £54,638 2s. 10d. is left for our disposal, and your directors recommend for division amongst the Preferred and Deferred Ordinary shares the sum of £42,000, which will represent a dividend of 1s. 9d. per share on the Preferred shares and 2s. 9 3-5d. per share on the Deferred shares, leaving £12,638 2s. 10d. to be carried forward to next year's account.

Your directors have had under careful consideration, for some time past, a scheme for the reconstruction of the capital of the company, their intention being to bring the nominal capital of the company more into conformity with the value of the company's assets. It has not been possible to complete the scheme in time for it to be dealt with concurrently with this meeting.

LONDON-AMERICAN MARITIME TRADING.

The Earl of Wemyss presided, on December 15th, in London, at the annual general meeting of the London-American Maritime Trading Co., Ltd., and in moving the adoption of the report and accounts said that the almost chaotic condition of economic affairs and the great uncertainty of the political situation made it more than usually futile to indulge in any prophecies as to the future. As long as the unsettled conditions prevailed he thought it unwise even to indulge in estimates which, under normal circumstances, might be relied upon, and would confine himself to dealing with the affairs of the company at the present time.

The balance on profit and loss account was almost exactly the same as was the case last year, but in arriving at the balance it should be noted that £4,895, cost of wireless installations incurred in previous years, had been written off, and the sum of £4,300, cost of doing part survey of the steamer Rio Preto, was also included. In regard to the latter, they all knew how the cost of everything had increased, but even so the increase in shipping working costs was almost staggering. As compared with pre-war costs, running charges for insurance, wages, stores, and provisions had increased by no less than 220 per cent., port charges by 100 to 150 per cent., repairs by 300 per cent., bunker coals in home ports by 400 per cent., and stevedore charges in many cases by as much as 600 per cent. In addition, shipowners had been hampered by the delay in "despatch." Ships in pre-war days carrying such cargoes as grain, sugar, wheat, etc., were able to "turn round" in ten days at most; for them to take a month or even more was nowadays no rare occurrence. That, of course, hampered earning capacity. From the balance sheet shareholders would notice that dividends from investments showed an increase of £3,595, and amounted in all to £23,274.

IND, COOPE & CO. (1912).

Mr. Louis E. Walker, the chairman and managing director, presided at the meeting of Ind, Coope and Co. (1912), Limited, held on December 15th. In moving the adoption of the report and accounts he dealt at some length with the figures in the balance-sheet, and called attention to the item of cash at bankers and in hand, which, together with the Treasury Bills, War Bonds, etc., amounted in all to £863,167. As to the profit and loss account, they had had a very successful year. The trading profit, interest on investments, loans, etc., amounted to £474,202. As to the excess profits duty provision, so far no definite assessment had been agreed to; the board was working for the best and providing for the worst, and they were satisfied that the utmost liability under any circumstances was provided for. Out of profits £10,000 had been transferred to Debenture redemption fund, and £75,000 was to be transferred to general reserve. Finally, they were left with a balance of £48,450, which, with the amount brought forward, made £153,465 available. Continuing, the chairman said that the serious dispute which had arisen as to what were the relative positions of the shareholders and certificate holders, had been amicably settled between the board and Sir William Peat, with the approval of the court, and, without going into details, he wanted to make it perfectly clear that until the settlement had been arrived at the Ordinary shareholders had been only part proprietors of the business. As to dividend, the board recommended that 15 per cent. should be paid on the Ordinary capital. The company had during the year paid in addition a sum of £88,402 in cash, so that the actual amount in cash paid out on behalf of the Ordinary shareholders during the year amounted to £137,995.

IN Messrs. McCLINTON'S half-page advertisement in our issue of Dec. 6, by an inadvertence the address of their London Distributing Depot was given as 1, Guildford Street, instead of as at 1½. No. 1, Guildford Street, is still in the occupation of the Guildford and Sherwood Dairies, who continue to conduct there the flourishing business which was established nearly 50 years ago. Messrs. McClinton's, of course, are the Proprietors and Manufacturers of the famous Irish Toilet Specialities—Colleen Soaps and Creams, Shaving Soap and Cream, etc. Will interested readers please note?

THE GREAT BRAIN FOOD.

BRAININE

The Only Cure for Brain Fag.

It is a great vitaliser. It builds up, through the brain, the whole nerve system. It makes work a pleasure. It

Solves the Drug Problem.

It is free from strychnine or any poisonous ingredient. It is no quack preparation. It is made up from the prescription of a great Brain Specialist. It is

Strongly recommended by Mr. Horatio Bottomley, M.P.

It is sold in tubes at 1/3 and 3/- To be obtained at the Army and Navy Stores, Boots, and all leading Chemists; or direct, post free, from—

BRAININE 35, Bucklingham Gate, LONDON, S.W.

CHRISTMAS

JOHN BULL Readers' Peace Year Christmas.

AFTER four years of terrible war and suffering JOHN BULL readers are celebrating the first great Peace Christmas. Probably for the first time for several years members of the family and friends are re-gathering.

Doubtless at many of such gatherings a few moments will be given for a reference to absent friends. During these *few* moments will every reader of JOHN BULL also think of the many hundreds of sick and afflicted who are lying in the wards of St. Bartholomew's Hospital? Through this Christmastide the doctors and nurses of this great institution will still be "carrying on."

St. Bartholomew's Hospital—the oldest British Hospital—has uninterruptedly carried on its humane work for nearly 800 years and is unused to begging. Owing to the increased cost of everything it is in a perilous position. It has been obliged to close its Convalescent Home which helped to complete health one thousand cases annually, and unless immediate help is forthcoming it will be compelled to further curtail its work by closing many of its Wards.

Every person in the Empire owes something to "Bart's," and every reader of JOHN BULL is asked this Christmas to spare something towards helping this great institution.

At every gathering at which the reader is present he or she is asked to make a collection on behalf of "Bart's" and the 250,000 children, women and men who come annually, ill or afflicted, for treatment. Remember, no sum is too small to send, and it will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

HERE ARE A FEW FACTS:

"BART'S" is a free institution, and it is estimated that 7,000,000 persons—natives of every town and county—have benefited from its skilled treatment during the past 50 years.

"BART'S" deals with about 65 per cent. of the accidents occurring yearly in the City of London, and no person visiting the Empire's great city is immune from this possibility.

"BART'S" is a National School of Training; thousands of doctors who there received their training are carrying on their work in all parts of the United Kingdom and in other parts of the world.

"BART'S" Graduates to the number of 500 are to-day receiving their training and gaining their experience, and will in due course go forth to practise in all parts.

"BART'S" is a Training School for Nurses, whose invaluable experience benefits the whole community.

"BART'S" is a home of *research*, and both medical men and citizens throughout the Empire owe much to the great discoveries made within its walls.

"BART'S" is faced with a terrible crisis; there is a large overdraft at the Bank to clear off; donations have decreased; the cost of commodities has sent up its expenditure enormously.

"BART'S," so unused to begging, turns to you for assistance in its hour of need, and asks you to take or to help place a collecting box with a business house, factory or shop.

"BART'S" Appeal Offices, 26, Great Ormond Street, London, W.C., will send a list of 80 ways in which women, children and men can help.

There has just been published a Special Christmas Eve number of the *Daily Mirror*. The sixteen pages of this unique number deal exclusively with the history and work of "Bart's," and are well illustrated. Such an issue is not likely to appear again, and is well worth preserving—its pages contain most interesting articles by leading writers. A copy will be sent post free for 2d. stamps. Write for "Bart's Mirror," Bart's Appeal Offices, 26, Gt. Ormond Street, London, W.C.

To the HON. TREASURER,
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL,
Smithfield, London, E.C.

I enclose £.....s.....d. to aid St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

Please write plainly

Name.....

Address.....

.....

JOHN BULL. Please mention JOHN BULL.

"John Bull's" Letter Bag.

[The EDITOR replies to, and chats with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, INSURANCE POLICIES, ETC., *as they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only should be forwarded in the first instance.*

LETTERS *must be addressed to the Editor or Publishers, 93, Long Acre, W.C.2, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters.* FINANCIAL, INSURANCE, OR LEGAL *enquiries should be addressed to the Financial, Insurance, or Legal Editor, and must each be accompanied by a postal order for one shilling. No fee is charged in respect of other enquiries. Full names and addresses should be given.*

E. J. W (Linfold).—So your fingers are twitching and your nails are digging into your palms with indignation at the idea of shaking hands with the Huns. Our feet, too, are extremely restive at the same thought.

CAPT. B. (Straits Settlement).—We do not remember John Burns having ever declared "a working man can or should live on 30s. a week," but he did say that no man was worth more than £500 a year—and then joined the Government at a salary of a few thousand, explaining that he could not be a blackleg!

CORPORAL J. AYNSLEY (Nottingham).—We really do not know where the name of our horse "Aynsley" came from, as we bought him "all at." In view of your own patronymic, however, perhaps you can enlighten us.

"ONE OF THE FIRST HUNDRED THOUSAND" (Feltham).—Your description of us as "the idol of the ex-Service men," is one which, in its evident sincerity, touches us deeply

"WINNER" (Rylield).—To make huge profits out of shipping shares is a legitimate investment, while a flutter in Premium Bonds would be a wicked gamble. Now you know.

T. B. (North Kensington).—The Out-of-Work Donation, except for ex-Service men, has "gone West," and we fear all your shouting won't bring it back again.

G. M. (Esher).—We note your objection to Carpentier kissing ladies in the ring. You may take it from us, however, that he made quite a clean job of it.

T. S. (Caterham).—"Let me tell you that you have the whole nation at your back." We had a feeling there was something behind us.

I. D. (Shaftesbury Avenue, W.C.).—As you know, we have constantly pleaded the cause of the English waiters, whose hard fate you so feelingly describe.

O. S. M. (Newcastle).—Robert Burton maintained that one religion was as true as another; but you will note that this depends largely on the other.

"INTERNATIONAL" (Ryhill).—"I feel I must relate to you a case of the *hearty welcome and deep gratitude* our soldiers receive on their return to civil life." This is sark.

E. L. C. (Cliffe).—"Why not bring in a law to make all strikes illegal?" Because you can't make people work if they wouldn't rather.

S. W. (Bradford).—There is no denying that in a vast number of instances hospital nurses are disgracefully overworked and scandalously underpaid.

"REGULAR READER AT THE LIBRARY" (E.C.).—Cannot say why the Patent Office library shuts at 5 o'clock, just when most useful to inventors. Perhaps to save gas, or to let the staff go and see the pictures.

J. G. (Birkenhead).—You think "a policeman can live on his pension without work"; he says he can't, and that's where the bad language starts.

"TROUBLED ONE" (Grays).—You can only wait, as patiently as may be, for a commonsense amendment of the Divorce law. Meantime, you have our deep sympathy.

H. G. (Ashton-under-Lyne).—We hope to get the *Deutschland* to Manchester one of these days, but she has several prior engagements. The Bank Balance Report, we expect, will be out in about a fortnight's time.

A. O. F. (Somerset).—As you say, we *must* find a British champion. We are keeping our eyes skinned.

SEAMAN A. V. M. (Highgate).—"Why is Joe Beckett like Harry Lauder?" There's one to go with the crackers.

S. F. B. (Birmingham).—It may be true that "gas-producers make huge fortunes," but if you intend the statement as a fling at us, it is distinctly impolite.

"ONE OF THEM" (Derby).—We are in sympathy with your criticisms of police procedure but you must not be too "upset about it," or you'll find yourself losing flesh.

S. D. (Hope Village).—Your letter to hand. The red ink patches give it quite a nutty appearance.

"PUSSYFOOT'S ORDEAL" (Barnsley).—Thanks for photo of yourself sitting astride a beer-barrel. You look as natural as if you had been born in a brewery.

"CONSTANT READER" (West Croydon).—If the girl left without notice, as it appears she did, she forfeits her wages, and would fail in an action for their recovery.

"LOOK AND LEARN" (Maidstone).—"There is a rumour that Gibraltar is to be ceded to Spain." There is, but you may contradict it; as also the report that Bethnal Green is to be handed over to Denmark.

"A FALLEN MAN" (Birmingham).—Your letter to hand. You remind us of the Chinaman who swallowed a concertina.

A. M. (Acton).—"I venture to approach you on the subject of brandy." Nothing doing, old dear.

W. C. (Bromley).—William Bacher, alleged house agent, of 12, Theobalds Road, W.C., already exposed.

S. B. (Streatham).—"Is it not a fact that the Control Staff are incompetent to manage the people's food?". Let's split the difference and say they're competent to mismanage it.

J. W. W. (Holloway).—"The local gas collector came and emptied the meter and kindly informed me I was 1s. in debt to the Company." If he was kindly, pay up.

W. B. (Sheffield).—"Please tell me in what way the Prince of Wales's Fund is being disposed of." As we showed last week, the big balance in hand is being stored up, instead of being expended in the relief for which it was subscribed.

E. B. S. (Pollokshields).—"I have received another warning by the means of automatic writing." Don't worry a bit till you get one from your landlord.

N. S. F. (Forest Hill).—"Lady Astor is a Christian Scientist and therefore a Prohibitionist." She ought to know that the water was not turned into cocoa.

J. B. (Brighton).—As a rule, the Government don't pay anybody anything before the money is due.

J. (Cardiff).—We note that if your address is published you expect to be murdered. Let us hope by next Christmas you will be a bit more popular.

W. P. (Lincoln).—We note that you were "pulled up" for smoking "in the yard," but as you do not say whose yard it was, we are unable to advise.

J. A. G. (Bath).—"I should like to draw your attention to a gross misuse of public funds." All right, but go steady; we are easily shocked.

T. P. (Hawarden).—We note that you do not intend to use "several pages of full scrap," for which consideration we are deeply grateful.

A. E. S. (Barrowford).—Thanks for letter, which supplies excellent food for meditation during our short Christmas holiday.

H. M. (Ashford).—We have already expressed the opinion that the little chap was excessively punished. Those Ashford Magistrates must have been a hard-hearted lot.

"BRITISH" (Bridport).—We note that you would be put to considerable personal inconvenience by the introduction of Prohibition. How many quarts a day could you manage with at a pinch?

"ARDOAR" (Rowlands Castle).—Your perseverance in the "Bullets" Competition is to be highly commended. Here's a Merry Christmas to you, and no dyspep.

"ANONYMOUS."—"I see by the Press that Premium Bonds has not passed, but it is no use being down-hearted about it." Never were, never was, never will be.

"READER OF 'JOHN BULL'" (Dunston-on-Tyne).—So you want licensed bookmakers for workmen's clubs? As far as that goes, every bookmaker should be licensed, even at the Carlton.

J. H. (Plumstead).—The Central Tribunal are supposed to be inquiring into sewing cotton, but they're a long time in getting their Coats off.

MRS. W. H. P. (Clapton).—"Please press the Government to make the O.A.P. start at 65." M. E. (Wolverhampton).—"Don't lower the age to 65, but give a little more to people over 70." Trying to please everybody is a difficult job, but we don't despair.

MRS. M. S. (Ayrshire).—"I have heard my dead son speak 7 times at séances in Glasgow." Afraid, mother, you are deceiving yourself.

"NEWSPAPER" (Gosport).—A penny a week for house delivery is scarcely a stunt in profiteering.

"READER" (Coldstream).—We cannot print what "was said in Lodge." Naughty of you to report it.

MRS. E. W. (New Eltham).—Our opinion is that "if some of those M.P.s had had seven children to feed" they would have made a beastly muck of it whichever way they tried.

E. W. W. (Luton).—Cannot say why you and the missus were charged so heavily for the passage from New Zealand, unless either of you was overweight.

MRS. W. (Bucks).—There are all sorts of anomalies in railway fares at present, but it may be a good plan to let the Government see you noticed them.

J. T. (Malta).—Sorry to hear of the troubles of the Maltese, but afraid we cannot "better their predicament." Nor, unfortunately, can we predict their betterment.

W. M. (Penshurst).—Your bright suggestion noted, and staff instructed to ponder it carefully during Christmas vacation.

"OLD AND STARVING" (Bow).—Our sympathy goes out whole-heartedly to pre-war pensioners, but to raise their doles to the post-war scale would cost over £5,000,000 a year and the Chancellor's ear is being pulled in so many other directions.

MRS. A. P. (Westbourne Grove).—"If you think it is not worth £100, just say so, and I give it to the Northcliffe Press, and I guess their papers will delight in publishing." We are bound to "just say so," for we should hate to deprive the Northcliffe Press of its promised delight.

W. S. (Bristol).—The British and Colonial Aeroplane Company is entirely a private firm, and has nothing whatever to do with the Air Ministry.

"JACK SKYSAIL."—Here is the acknowledgment you are "eagerly looking forward to," and with it our best wishes for a sober Christmas.

H. E. H. (Tonbridge).—We note that you have threatened the Chancellor of the Exchequer with the withdrawal of your War Loan holdings. That must have been the "financial crisis" rumoured a week ago.

H. H. (Stanmore).—We are glad to hear that Carpentier used in training English cocoa and chocolate—Fry's. Shows his good taste!

E. P. C. (Richmond).—Don't you worry your head about Lord Northcliffe's relatives. You'll be wanting us next to check the pedigree of the Pope of Rome.

(Many replies are unavoidably held over.)

OUR XMAS GIFT OFFER

THE "JOHN BULL" PEN GIFT COUPON

(VALUE ONE SHILLING)

APPEARED IN OUR ISSUES OF NOV. 22, and DEC. 13 & 20, and IS AVAILABLE TO 31st DECEMBER ONLY.

"JOHN BULL" Pen Coupon. Value 2d.

By sending this Coupon with P.O. for 3/3, and 1½d. stamps for postage, the holder is entitled to receive a "John Bull" Gold Nibbed Fountain Pen, STANDARD MODEL. Additional Coupons up to 6 from "John Bull" from this date may be saved and used in part payment, each counting as 2d. off the price. Thus, you may send 7 coupons and P.O. for 2/3 only, and 1½d. stamps for postage.

DE LUXE MODEL, 1/3 Extra.

Address, Pen Dept., JOHN BULL, Long Acre, London, W.C.2. (Dec. 27th, 1919.)

P.O.s should be made payable to John Bull, Ltd., and crossed & Co.

N.B.—State whether you prefer a Fine, Medium, or Broad Nib.

WATCH AND WAIT.

Watch it for thirty days—wait until you are sure. Take your time in deciding. Note results each day, but wait until you are absolutely certain. If it does not benefit you it costs you nothing. If you like fair dealing, if you are sick or need better health, read all this offer, and then write us.

Full Month's Supply for Fair Trial: Send No Money.

Readers of JOHN BULL should take advantage without delay of our liberal offer to send a month's supply of the natural Vitaliser, "Vitæ-Ore," for free trial. Thousands have already experienced its marvellous effects—the new vital energy which it gives, its power of renewing the health and vigour of all.

SENSATIONAL BENEFIT.

The result has been to cause a real public sensation. Vitæ-Ore has attracted attention by the way that it has given new life and virility to thousands of languid, anxious, and exhausted men. It has restored grace and healthy charm to thousands of tired, weary, care-worn women, and to girls whose development to womanly life has been delayed. The vital forces are powerfully and noticeably increased by Vitæ-Ore. What is the result? In the office, the factory, at social gatherings, at work, and in hours of leisure people are telling each other how much Vitæ-Ore has done for them that no ordinary medicine could do.

All who wish to share in this wonderful benefit should write at once for a month's supply.

NOT A PATENT MEDICINE.

Vitæ-Ore is not a patent medicine. The British Government recognises this by exempting it from stamp duty.

Vitæ-Ore is the residue of a natural healing spring, found in the desert by Prof. Noel, a famous geologist, and tested and approved by medical men of the highest standing.

HIGHEST MEDICAL APPROVAL.

The *Lancet*, the most important medical journal in the world, which would never give the authority of its world-famous columns to anything without the best scientific basis, publishes this statement

"The clinical results obtained were satisfactory."

Vitæ-Ore is perfectly harmless, and free from the slightest ill-effects. A fair trial for a month is offered. Fill up the coupon at once. Do not delay. Receive the benefit NOW.

ITS WIDE SCOPE.

Dissolved in water, Vitæ-Ore not only gives new health and tonic strength through its vitalising power, but has directly beneficial action upon many stubborn diseases, and has produced numberless cures in cases of

Nervous Weakness	**Rheumatism**
Debility	**and all "run-**
Dyspepsia	**down" conditions**
Neurasthenia	**resulting from**
Neuritis	**Stomach, Liver and**
Anæmia	**Kidney Weakness.**

It is a powerful nerve and spinal tonic. The headaches, pains in the back, and special weakness of women vanish when it is used. A man who, without having any special disease, suffers from general lack of energy, want of manly vigour and ambition, who is easily fatigued, and does not feel the aggressive strength of manhood, will derive new life from Vitæ-Ore—not by any sudden stimulation, but by a powerful tonic action which permanently benefits. Vitæ-Ore has made new men of thousands. You have a free and fair opportunity to try it for a whole month and see whether it will do the same for you. Fill in the coupon NOW.

IT WILL DO YOU GOOD.

Girls who are bloodless and anæmic—pale, easily tired, short of breath when going upstairs—receive the most wonderful benefits from Vitæ-Ore.

You are asked to use Vitæ-Ore for a month and watch the result. You are to be the judge of the benefit. If the result is satisfactory—if Vitæ-Ore does you good—you pay 4s. 6d. for the whole month's supply. If you are not benefited, simply write and say so and we ask nothing at all. It is a fair "no benefit no pay" offer.

But Vitæ-Ore WILL do you good. It will strengthen and tone up your nerves and your whole system. Your digestion will be better, your eyes brighter, your skin and complexion cleared and younger-looking.

Do not delay. Take advantage of the offer at once. Fill in the coupon or copy it, and post it to THEO. NOEL CO., LTD. (Dept. 19), 29, *Ludgate Hill, London, E.C.4.*

Fill in or Copy this Coupon for Free Trial of One Month's Supply.

To THE THEO. NOEL CO., LTD.
(Dept. 19), 29, Ludgate Hill,
London, E.C.4

Dear Sirs,—

Please send me a month's supply of "Vitæ-Ore," with full directions and free book of particulars.

I will use it according to the "Directions," and promise to report results in 30 days.

The ailments which trouble me are —

.....

If it does me good I will send you 4s. 6d. (four shillings and sixpence) in payment for the month's course of treatment. If not, I will write and say so, and in that case YOU ARE TO CHARGE ME NOTHING.

Name.....

Age.....

Address .....

.....

To Get Perfect FLAVOUR Do as the Great Chefs do

USE

Yorkshire Relish

THE difference between the work of a great chef and that of the merely ordinary cook is largely in the wonderful *flavours* the former obtains. It is the *flavour* that accounts for the £50 a week of the one against the £50 a year of the other. It would not be too much to say that the wise and generous use of Yorkshire Relish lies at the foundation of many of the masterpieces of the greatest chefs. Scores of London's greatest chefs use Yorkshire Relish regularly—last year over a dozen wrote to tell us how valuable they found it.

Monsieur E.H. Fouqué, Chef de Cuisine at Gatti's Restaurant, writes:—"I find your sauce is greatly appreciated, and that it makes meals much easier to manage, also it is valued, by those who adapt it to such a large number of dishes."

ALL GOODALL'S PRODUCTS ARE OF PERFECT PRE-WAR QUALITY

Whilst there has been a most unfortunate lowering of standards all round as a result of the War, we are proud to say that the products of this house are a notable exception. Rising costs of wages and materials have compelled us to put up the prices, but throughout we have maintained our every manufacture at full pre-war level. Yorkshire Relish is still made in the same careful way, from just the same rare and costly Eastern spices. It is matured just as long in just the same type, old casks. It is still "The Most Delicious Sauce in the World."

Prices 10½d., 1/9 and 3/- per bottle from your Grocer.

GOODALL'S EGG POWDER

Gives exactly the same effect as the best new laid eggs at a fraction of the cost. Use it for pastries, puddings, cakes, scones, shortbread, etc.—you will be delighted.

Large packets 7½d. Tins 8½. and 1/4.

GOODALL'S JELLY CRYSTALS

Contain Nature's own flavours—therefore unique. Try this most delicious delicacy. Everyone likes it. Made in all flavours.

Pint packets 9d. Of all Grocers.

GOODALL'S CUSTARD POWDERS

Make the most delicious, nourishing, and creamy custard with the least trouble. Ask for Goodall's Custard Powder.

Packets 7½d. and 1/1 (and in large tins.)

GOODALL, BACKHOUSE & CO., LEEDS
Sole Proprietors of Yorkshire Relish.

TO THE TRADE

The National Window-Dressing Competition.

All the above lines are eligible for entries in connection with the JOHN BULL *Window-Dressing Competition, and we shall be glad to send any competitor by sending showcards, cartons or other display material on request.*

GOODALL, BACKHOUSE & CO.

RETURN YOUR BOTTLES

Your Grocer will be glad to pay you 1d. for each empty Yorkshire Relish bottle you return. See how many you can find—take them to your grocer to-day and turn them into money.

Your Last Chance!

'BULLETS' NEW YEAR OFFER

1ST PRIZE **£500** 1ST PRIZE

2ND Prize **£50**

3RD PRIZE **£10**

10 PRIZES OF £5	10 PRIZES OF £2 10	50 PRIZES OF 10/-	400 PRIZES OF 5/-	1,000 PRIZES OF 2/6	7,000 TARGET PRIZES

HOW TO MAKE "BULLETS."

First choose one of the Thirty-two examples given below. Then give **TWO, THREE** or **FOUR** words (according to length of the example chosen). Any **ONE** of the words selected must begin with **ANY** letter in the alphabet. This letter should be the first letter of the words selected to begin with any letter in the alphabet. This letter should be the first letter of the words selected to begin with any letter in the alphabet. This letter should be the first letter of the words selected to begin with any

FOOTBALL PRIZE—BIG INCREASE

£400 MUST BE WON

FOR TEN WINNING TEAMS

OR NEXT LARGEST NUMBER OF WINNING TEAMS

Our Must-be-Won Football Prize has been increased to no less than £400. The sum of £400 will be paid to the sender of ten winning teams selected from those given on the coupon on this page. Should no competitor succeed in giving ten winning teams, the prize of £400 will be awarded to the sender of the next largest number of winning teams.

REMEMBER—LAST WEEK OF THIS SPECIAL OFFER.

£400 MUST BE WON THIS WEEK— NO ENTRANCE FEE!

NEXT WEEK—FOR ONE WEEK ONLY—NEXT WEEK

£500 MUST BE WON

FOR TEN WINNING CUP-TIE TEAMS.

Don't miss this wonderful Offer. Order your copy for next week NOW.

THIS COMPETITION IS EXCLUSIVE TO "JOHN BULL."

Coupons do not appear in any other paper.

SCOTTISH AND IRISH READERS MAY COMPETE

This competition is quite free, no entrance fee of any kind being charged. Competitors can send as many coupons as they like. Scottish and Irish readers may compete. A careful study of football form should be made before filling in coupons. The "National News" gives the best and most accurate reports and forecasts every Sunday, which should prove of great assistance to intending competitors.

Cut out coupon neatly and address envelope as follows:—"Football Competition No. 16, JOHN BULL, 23, Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2." Write "Football" in top left-hand corner of envelope. Any coupons cut out of copies of JOHN BULL not with which to enter competition.

SEND AS MANY COUPONS AS YOU LIKE.

For result of Football Competition No. 14 see next week's issue.

Read these Rules Carefully.

(1) All attempts must be made on coupons taken from the issue of JOHN BULL announcing this competition. Coupons must be written in ink (typewriting or pencil will not be allowed), and must be filled up in accordance with the instructions given on this page.

(2) The sum of £400 (Four Hundred Pounds) will be paid to the sender of a coupon giving any ten winning teams from amongst those playing on January 3rd, given on the coupon on this page. If no competitor succeeds in giving ten winning teams the prize of £400 will be paid to the sender of the next largest number of winning teams. If two or more competitors succeed in giving ten winning teams, or failing that, succeed in sending the next largest number of winning teams, the £400 will be divided equally amongst them.

(3) Any coupon which has marked upon it more than ten Xs or less than ten Xs will be disqualified.

(4) No responsibility will be accepted by the Editor for the loss or non-delivery of any coupon. Proof of posting will not be accepted as proof of delivery or receipt. No correspondence will be entered into nor will interviews be granted.

(5) Any coupon on which an alteration of any kind has been made will be disqualified.

(6) Our employees are debarred from entering this competition.

(7) Any coupons received later than Thursday, January 1st, will be disqualified.

(8) The Editor's decision must be accepted as final and legally binding in all matters concerning this competition, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

HOW TO MARK YOUR COUPONS.

If you think the "Home" team will win put a X in the left-hand column headed "Home Win"; if you think the "Away" team will win put a X in the right-hand column headed "Away Win." Only ten teams must be marked in all. If more or less than ten Xs appear on any one coupon it will be disqualified. Coupons MUST be written in ink.

"JOHN BULL" FREE FOOTBALL COUPON.

Matches to be played Saturday, January 3rd. Coupon must reach us not later than Thursday, January 1st.

Home Win	Home Team		Away Team	Away Win
	Arsenal	v.	Manchester City	
	Aston Villa	v.	Burnley	
	Derby County	v.	Sunderland	
	Manchester United	v.	Chelsea	
	Bristol City	v.	Birmingham	
	Coventry City	v.	Rotherham County	
	Fulham	v.	Stoke	
	Grimsby Town	v.	Leicester City	
	Notts Forest	v.	Bury	
	South Shields	v.	Hull City	
	Brighton & Hove A.	v.	Brentford	
	Cardiff City	v.	Reading	
	Swindon Town	v.	Plymouth Argyle	
	Clyde	v.	St. Mirren	
	Kilmarnock	v.	Ayr United	
	Third Lanark	v.	Airdrieonians	

Coupons must be cut—not torn out.

I enter "John Bull" Football Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions on this page and I agree to accept the Editor's decision as final and legally binding, and enter on that understanding.

SIGNED .....

16 ADDRESS .....

.....

YOU CAN USE THIS COUPON.

The following "Bullets" prizes MUST BE WON THIS WEEK:

FIRST PRIZE — £500

SECOND PRIZE £50 — THIRD PRIZE £10

and over 8,000 other valuable prizes.

For full particulars see opposite page.

Closing Date, Thursday, January 1st.

Example .....

Bullet .....

Example .....

Bullet .....

(358) P.O. No. .....

I agree to enter this Competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on the opposite page.

If coupon is used P.O. or 1d. must be sent

Signed .....

Address .....

The EVENING TELEGRAM—the only Sunday evening paper.

REFLECT

for a few moments, and you will probably conclude that the unsatisfactory state of your health is due to faulty digestion. When you have arrived at this conclusion, the next step towards good-health is to remove the cause of your trouble. With this end in view you will again have to consider

AND SELECT

some good and sure remedy. Fortunately a reliable one can easily be found in Beecham's Pills. The success which this specific has achieved, in all kinds of digestive ailments, is common knowledge. Here, then, is a remedy in which you can place the utmost confidence. Give these pills a trial. They are the best of all family medicines and are appreciated in all parts of the world by all classes. In cases of biliousness, headache, constipation, heartburn, flatulence and similar disorders, relief is often obtained after the first dose of

BEECHAM'S PILLS

Prepared only by THOMAS BEECHAM, St. Helens, Lancs.
Sold everywhere in boxes, labelled 1s-2d and 2s-9d.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

A Word of Warning.

Sufferers from Venereal Diseases are strongly urged to continue treatment at the same hospital where their treatment has been started. Those who shift from hospital to hospital are putting difficulties in the way of their own cure. The most effective treatment can only be given by the doctor who is constantly watching the case.

The administration of Salvarsan—or 606—injections against Syphilis may be dangerous unless the previous history of the patient's treatment is known to the doctor; the sufferers are warned from fear of serious consequences not to seek these injections on their own responsibility.

Have patience. It is the only way. Do not shift from doctor to doctor or hospital to hospital. And if compelled to make a change tell the new doctor frankly the whole history of your case.

Those who are in any doubt or difficulty should write in confidence for information and free literature to N.C.C.V.D., 34, Avenue Chambers, Vernon Place, Southampton Row, London, W.C.1, marking the envelope "Medical." The National Council provides neither prescriptions nor drugs.

This announcement is issued by the National Council for combating Venereal Diseases, a responsible body recognised by the Government. President: Rt. Hon. Lord Sydenham. Chairman of Propaganda: Sir Malcolm Morris, K.C.V.O., F.R.C.S.E. General Secretary: Mrs. A. C. Gotto, O.B.E.

I will teach YOU to play brilliantly without Drudgery or Failure.

In a few months, with less than half the usual practice, my modern, progress-compelling

Piano Correspondence Lessons

will give you such a grip of the Keyboard and ease in reading, primary music, that you shall play with spirit and feeling Songs, Marches, Dances, Hymns, and many of the famous Classical Gems.

A guarantee supplied to any average person.

Natural talent need not have a note to start.
Send a card to-day for my illuminating book,

"MUSIC, HOW TO LEARN IT AND HOW TO PLAY IT."

Read about my System, see what hundreds of all ages and stages say it has done for them, and judge for yourself what it can do for you.

A Swimmer writes:—"I am delighted with my progress. A friend (a professional musician) is astonished at what I can do in so short a time. I must add once more I have surpassed every lesson. This is no mere lip-service I really mean it."—F.J.C. (Edinburgh).

A postcard with full address (Mrs., Miss, or Mr.) and the word Harmony, or Testimony, or Booklet, will bring my illustrated book, free, for your advice and opinion, by return.

Address: Studio 51, HARMONY HOUSE, 140, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.2.

FORT-REVIVER

THE FAMILY LIQUEUR TONIC

For over 40 years a reliable remedy for Colds in the Head, Influenza, Bronchitis, Sore Throat, Diseases of the Kidneys, Rheumatism, Gout, Neuralgia, Stomach Ailments, Sciatica, Lumbago, Debility, Nervousness.

HOLDROYDS PILLS

HUNDREDS OF TESTIMONIALS.
All Chemists, 1/3 Post Free 14 Stamps.
PREPARED ONLY AT
HOLDROYDS MEDICAL HALL,
CLECKHEATON, Yorks.

LADIES' FARM BOOTS

Style No. 190.—Stout Grain Leather Upper, High Leg, stout toecap, outside back-strip, watertight tongue, extra large eyelets, strong English Leather Soles with stout clogs toe and joint, good square heel with quarter tip.

Cash with Order.

36/-

Style No. 190.

Sizes 4, 5, 6, 6, 7 (Size 8 2/- extra). Each size made in three different widths, No. 4 (medium), No. 5 (wide), No. 6 (extra wide).

THE MAXIMUM SHOE Co., Ltd., Dept. T.B., Maximum Works, Northampton

Hinde's

HAIR TINT FOR GREY OR FADED HAIR.

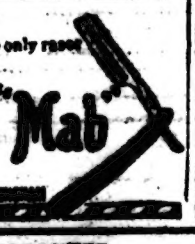
Tints grey or faded hair any natural shade desired — brown, dark-brown, light-brown or black. It is permanent and washable, has no grease, and does not burn the hair. It is used by over three-quarters of a million people. A Medical Certificate accompanies each bottle. Of all Chemists, Stores, and Hairdressers, 2/6 the Flask, or direct from HINDES Ltd., 1, Tabernacle Street, City, London.

Patentees and Manufacturers of the World-Famous Hindes Wavers.

SAVE TIME

and temper by using a "MAB," the only razor which combines safety and swiftness. Removes the hair quickly and smoothly with minimum amount of trouble.

Every Handled Razor . . 5/-
Fully in case Every Handle . 10/6



From all good Ironmongers and Stores.
"MAB" Co. 73 & Newhall St., Birmingham

TATCHO

The HAIR GROWER

Mr. Geo. R. Sims' discovery 1/3, 2/9, 4/6

You Can Live
13 days without Food.
3 days without Water.
Only 3 minutes without Air.

COUGHS, COLDS, INFLUENZA, BRONCHITIS, ASTHMA, CATARRH AND WHOOPING COUGH

Reduce the Air Station below Menith Point.

The natural consequence is that the breathing is affected, the bronchial tubes or bronchi become inflamed, and cough, more or less serious, follows. If neglected the entire respiratory system is weakened, and that way consumption lies. Children suffer more frequently from such complaints than do their elders, the death rate among the very young being truly appalling, and in too many instances due entirely to thoughtless neglect.

The World's Supreme Remedy

is Veno's Lightning Cough Cure, so called because of the rapidity with which it overcomes chronic coughs and cures deep-seated and long-standing cases of any of the above-named troubles. Veno's Lightning Cough Cure, in open Competition with the world, was

Awarded Grand Prix and Gold Medal at the International Health Exhibition, Paris, 1916

for its purity, efficacy, and pharmaceutical excellence.

Many thousands of testimonials from cured patients, scientific men and doctors have been received. The following is an example.

Chas. Hyatt-Woolf, Esq., F.R.P.S., F.R.G.S., in his work, "Truths About Tea and Why We Like Tea and Daily Use," says: "I have experimented in the laboratory with Veno's Lightning Cough Cure, and I have likewise applied it in practice . . . In all cases to which I applied it the influence of this remedy was most marked."

Ask always for Veno's Lightning Cough Cure. It is sold by Chemists, Stores, and Medicine Dealers in all parts of the world. If your Chemist is out of stock he will get it for you.

English Prices, 1/3 and 3/-

VENO'S LIGHTNING COUGH CURE

Sole Proprietors—The Veno Drug Co., Ltd., Manufacturing Chemists, Manchester, Eng.

THE "JOHN BULL" GUARANTEE. *We guarantee the goods advertised in every firm whose trade announcement appears in* JOHN BULL, *i.e., we hold ourselves responsible for their being of the quality and standard represented at the time of purchase and the date of payment, either in full or of fixed total cost, and if any reader can show just cause for dissatisfaction with the purchase of any goods made through any trade advertisement in our columns, we will refund the purchase money, provided the goods complained of are sent to us within one week from the date of original purchase. All communications should be addressed to* JOHN BULL, *Advertisement Department, 13, Long Acre, London, W.C.2.*

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